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FOREVER BELLE DE ЮUR A rare interview with Catherine Deneuve



rvis Cocker:

ewspaper of the Year for photographs

45p (IR50p)

Friday 27 March 1998

'Racist' prison chief is urged to step down

Crime Correspondent

THE head of the Prison Service was yesterday accused of racism by medical experts and penal campaigners following his claim that black people were more likely to die in custody while being restrained because they were physically different to

A forensic expert said Richard Tilt should resign if he could not provide evidence. Tilt: 'extraordinary claim' Two Home Office pathologists said there was no evidence of a. physia than whites." This was genetic or physiological link between race and the likelihood. logical difference" between the of dying from suffocation while races. "That's the evidence that that death from positional asbeing forcibly held. Mr Tilt's seems to be emerging, not just comments followed the latest in this country but in other death of a black man, Alton Manning, in cristody. An inquest jury ruled on Wednesday that he died in custody while being re- The Prison Service said Mr was unlawfully killed at a powate strained from 1992 to 1995 jail in 1995 after he was placed were black, Mr Tilt admitted.

while the Crown Prosecution Service considers whether to bring criminal charges.

Wednesday Mr. Lilt said: "Afro-Caribbean people are more in forensic medicine at St was based on internal re likely to suffer positional as-George's Hospital, London, completed in 1995.



because there was a "physiocountries as well," he added. Six the head of the Prison Service of the seven people who have should be claiming this now."

Tilt] can't back it up with some evidence, I would have thought On BBC's Newsnight on he would have to resign."

more research to see whether they are relevant." · A spokesman for the Police Complaints Authority, which investigates deaths in police custody, said they had researched the issue and had seen "no evidence to suggest one particular racial group is more likely to

suffer from it". Raju Bhatt, who has represented families in death-in-custody cases, including Mr Manning said "... Not once has anyone attempted to suggest physia is due to physiology. It highly offence and disgrace that,

Tilt was "greatly concerned at. any upset his comments may ... in a nock lock during a struggle.

Nat Cary, a partial logist at Pathage, caused in added that Seven custody officers from pworth. Hospital, Can there was emerging evidence bridgeshare, said: "It's an that there could be a link between supported." terships have been suspended extraordinary claim that is tain tween the greater frequency of tamount to racism. If he Mr a condition known as sickle-cell among African and Afro-Caribbean people and deaths from positional asphyxia. A spokesman said this finding

Natural born killer gets some home training

No 3,569



Taking aim: Andrew Golden, then aged six, is seen on a home video being taught how to use a gun. Five years later he used that knowledge when he and his 13-year-old cousin, Mitchell Johnson, opened fire on schoolmates in Jonesboro Arkansas killing four pupils and a teacher. Reports, page 16

Bath · Bradford

Chelmsford

Self-help is the key in new vision of Welfare

By Anthony Bevins

TONY BLAIR's vision of welfare in 2020 was presented for the first time yesterday, with self-belp as an inbuilt cornerstone for the middle classes who can afford to stand on their own two feet.

"We want a system that aids those who need it, and helps people to help themselves," the Prime Minister said in a foreword to Frank Field's consultative Green Paper, A New Contract for Welfare.

The whole tenor of the docpment was geared to damping down people's natural fear of change, and the controversy that could be stirred up by it. But in a Commons statement designed to break the traditional welfare mould. Mr Field, the minister for welfare reform, said: "Our commitment to the vulnerable is not negotiable. Our commitment to reform is not nego-

In a statement that marked a climax in Mr Field's 30-year personal campaign against the kind of poverty that disfigures his own Birkenhead constituency, the minister told MPs: "The new contract is about duty."

A final chapter of the Green Paper, on "Welfare 2020", is full of duties, but short on detail. In one sentence, it says: "Mutuals and private providers - In 2020, these providers will deliver a substantial share of welfare provision, particularly pensions." That is the extent of the "impressioo".

It also says that individuals will have duties to be independent, if possible, and to save for retirement, if possible.

In another chapter on "New. Partnerships for Welfare", the Green Paper says: "Provision for a number of contingencies is currently insufficient, including long-term care and protection for homebuyers against the loss

of income." But there is little elaboration, beyond the need for a possible extension of compulsory second pensions to those who are currently not covered by them. On that, legislation was promised by Mr Field

was based on internal research

Pressure groups gave a mixed response, with many saying that it was "a repackaging of proposals that [had] already been announced", raising more questions than it answered.

within three years.

Sally Witcher of the Child Poverty Action Group, the charity Frank Field himself used to head, said: "The Green Paper states that success will be measured by a reduction in the proportion of children living in workless households. But for this to be meaningful we need

to know by how much." Iam Duncan Smith, the Conservative spokesman, said: "The Green Paper adds nothing to

Poverty to dignity, page 8

Leading British Jews snub Cook over Israel visit

By Kathy Marks

THE BOARD of Deputies of British Jews has snubbed the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook. by postponing a dinner at which he was to be guest of hocour because of their anger over his controversial visit to Israel.

ream British Jewry - said yesterday that it had postponed its president's dinner, an annual clashed with the G-8 economic summit

dinner."

Neville Nagler, the board's chief executive, also confirmed Leading article, page 20 | a report in the Jewish Chronicle

today that the Foreign Secre- met Derek Fatchett, the junior tary's insistence on visiting Har

Homa, the Jewish settlement, had contributed to the decision. "Clearly, it was a consideration," he said. "It would have made his presence at the dinner very awkward. People in the community were troubled about The board - the voice of the high profile attached to

Mr Cook's visit to Har Homa, which, it was felt, had exacerbated relations with the Israeli fundraising event, because the authorities and weakened his original date in May would have ability to move the peace process forward." The Foreign Secretary had

But the board's president, been invited to speak at the din-Eldred Tabachnik, said: "Con- ner, which was planned to cosidering the strength of feeling incide with the 50th anniversary in the community, we did not of the founding of the state of think we should have him at our Israel. He had not indicated whether he would attend. Other guests were to include the Israeli and American ambassadors.

A delegation from the board

Foreign Office minister, oo Wednesday and told him that the function had been postponed for "organisational reasons"...

The Foreign Office said yes-terday that Mr Fatchett had been told Mr Cook's invitation would be issued agaio once the dinner had been rescheduled, either for July or October.

But Mr Nagler said it was not clear whether he would be invited. "That is something we will oeed to think about very carefully, given the feelings within the Jewish community following the visit to Israel," he said.

It was stressed vesterday that relations have not brokeo down completely. Mr Tabachnik and other Jewish elders are to meet Mr Cook next Thursday to discuss their concerns about Government policy in the

Chehenhan The hardest part of choosing a Rolex is choosing where to do it. llford - Leicester, Shire Lincoln - Middlesb Nottingham - Oxford Shellicki, Meadowhal Thurrock - Woking NORTHERN GOLDSMITHS GEO. ATTENBORDUGH BRACKER & GEO. FARRER Tanbridge Wells STRADLINGS

ROLEX



Let's talk: Nikki and dolphin Photograph: South West News Human Dolphin Therapy Cen-

Dolphins help boy speak for the first time

like a potential script for a Hollywood film, an eight-year-old boy has spoken his first words after swimming with dolphins, vrites Andrew Buncombe.

Starved of oxygen at birth, Nikki Brice had been left apparently nuable to speak. though doctors said he had the obysical ability. Having tried various speech therapists with no success, the boy's family raised £10,590 to take him to the

tre in Miami, Florida. Within shock because it was so unexdays of being at the centre, where youngsters swim with the rals, he had uttered his first few stumbling words.

"We hadn't been there long when Nikki was told to get out of the water at the end of a dolphin swimming session and he stood very quietly at the side of the tank," said his mother, "He was telling us that he

wanted to get back in the water. We all just stood there in

pected, but once we got over it we quickly told him that he suffering from depression or could go in again and he soon cheered up." Nikki, from Weston-Soper-

Mare, North Somerset, is now being coached how to properly use his vocal chords and is picking up new words. "I have hoped for years to bear Nikki speak and I really didn't mind

Scientists are largely unde-

cided about why dolphins have else with learning difficulties. Some believe the underwater sounds dolphins make may



Realing

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INSIDE GUIDE: WEATHER, P2 ◆ CROSSWORDS, P32 AND EYE P30 ◆ TODAY'S TELEVISION, EYE P32 ◆ FULL CONTENTS, P2

TOMORROW IN YOUR 5-SECTION NDEPENDENT

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CONTENTS

Labour tells Hague not to be vague on Emu entry

Chief Political Correspondent

WILLIAM HAGUE was accused yesterday by Labour of being "vague" after admitting that he might be wrong in ruling out Britain's entry to a European single currency for 10

The admission that he might be wrong is a rare step for any politician, but the Conservative Party leader's remarks on a phone-in programme will revive speculation - killed only last week - that he is preparing to soften his policy on the Euro. He said Tory opposition to the



Hague: "I don't think it would e right to say ... never'

single currency could for as little as six years, depending on the length of the next Parliament. Mr Hague reaffirmed his pol-

icy of keeping Britain out of Emu during the lifetime of this and the next Parliament, highlighting what he saw as the huge economic and political risks the single currency posed for the UK. However, he added: "But I

might be wrong; over a long period, I might be demonstrated to be wrong. So I don't think it would be right to say we should never go into it."

He said his opposition to the single currency in this and the next Parliament now amounted clearly signalled that he wanted to abandon any linkage to a firm number of years.

"What I have always said is that we intend to oppose at the next general election. That would mean for the next Parliament. That might be six or

seven or eight years from now. But the important point is not exactly what number of years it is that we will be clear about that at the next general

Mr Hague stressed the need to be cautious and attacked the Government's stance, saying: "I think the Government are wrong to say that we know in principle we want to go into it."

Facing telephone questions from the public on BBC2's Westminster programme, he pointedly refused to say the UK should never sign up to Emu. He was challenged by Brian

Carter from Hull to say why the Tories would not rule out the

single currency in principle. Mr Hague replied: "I don't think it's necessary to say that we are against it in principle. I am not always sure, in any case, what that would mean.

"I don't think it's ever right to say we will never, we can never imagine going into something like that."

The former Defence Secretary Michael Portillo softened his own image after losing his seat by admitting mistakes over social policy and the family by the Conservative Government at a fringe meeting at last year's Tory party conference. But the hero of the Tory right, Mr Portillo has shown no doubts his own stance on the single currency, to which he is opposed

in principle.

Labour seized on Mr cused the Tory leader of changing his position "more frequently than Eurostar leaves Waterloo". Doug Henderson, the Minister for Europe, said: "It is about time Mr Hague told the British people exactly where the Tories stand on this importo a nine-year period. But he tant issue instead of changing his mind every five minutes in a desperate bid to cover up the deep divisions within his own party."

Tree fellers move in on Kingston poplars

last night imderground in specially dug tunnels as the campaign against the felling of 56 trees continued.

been halted for the night.

Police said yesterday evening that the ground but the attempt to remove them the River Thames, blocking the view of under his control. A police spokeswoman

Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey, had ropolitan Police. The protest has been

TWO environmental protesters spent eco-warriors from the tunnels at ing," said a spokeswoman for the Met-sponsibility for removing the protesters, originally 60 in number, falls to the unen halted for the night.

Sparked by the local council's decision to der-sheriff of Greater London John Har-fell 56 poplar trees that line the bank of grove, with 140 private security guards has now stopped until tomorrow morn- a new hoxpry home development. The re- said around 120 officers were also on duty.

Jury studies artist's sculptures modelled on human remains

could look at an array of "gris- veal part of her womb. ly" body-part sculptures.

The 10 women and two men artist, Anthony-Noel Kelly, 42, and undertaker Niel Lindsay, 25, for stealing the originals they were modelled on from the Royal College of Surgeons (RCS), spent several minutes studying them.

They included two studies of an old man's head and torso and cross-sections of a thigh and assorted limbs. In between rested another example of Mr lah technician, £400 to help

Both Mr Kelly, of Clapham,

south London, and Mr Lindsay, London, deny one charge of stealing "human anatomical" specimens from the RCS between June 1991 and November 1994. Mr Keliy alone also pleads not guilty to dishonestly

The jury at Southwark Crown Court, south London earlier heard that Mr Kelly paid Mr Lindsay, a former RCS trainee

A COURTROOM doubled as Kelly's work - a large chunk of smuggle out "a large number" of to Mr. Kelly's family home in an art gallery yesterday so a jury a woman's body dissected to reparts of dead bodies after wrap. Smarden, Kent. to Mr. Kelly's family home in tock, what was thought to be male genitalia, and some "unping them in bin liners and

> em home on his motorbike. while on other occasions Mr London. Lindsay would ferry them to Mr Kelly's flat by taxi. After preparing casts of the

items, he made "exact copy" sculptures which were displayed at an exhibition in London last

Police began an investigation and some of the body parts were exhumed by officers from a

· Other items were recovered recognisable" items.

putting them into a rucksack. from the basement of a flat be-Sometimes the sculptor took longing to an unsuspecting girl- interviews with police, Mr Kelfriend in Brixton, south

The haul of some 50 body parts was taken to Greenwich mortuary, catalogued and then examined by a pathologist.

His report, which was read to the jury vesterday, listed the head and torso, another head, numerous limbs, feet, toes and just about every other part of the human body, including a makeshift grave in a field next portion of a hrain, a right but-

The court has heard that in ing the items after discovering that the RCS had held them for longer than the three years allowed under the special licences granted by Her Majesty's Inspector of Anatomy.

They contended this meant .. the institution had forfeited ; any right to them and therefore they could not be guilty of stealing them from the college. The case resumes on Monday.

INDEPENDENT

WIN 7 Day Florida Holiday & BATTLEZONE PC CD-ROM



Do not miss this chance in win a fabulous one week all inclusive trip in Florida for two people. This includes flights, 7 hights accommodation at The Holiday inn Cocoa Beach, car hire and it day it the Kermedy Space Centre Visitors centra. There is also the opportunity in witness it shuttle launch, subject to launch dates. Runners up will receive a copy of Battlezone on PC CD-Rom.

October 1980 marked the birth of a revolution - the release of Bardezone, the first 3D game ever. Now 18 years later. Activision releases a PC

The space race is a lie. Only President Kennedy, you, your brigads and the Soviets know that its reality an arms race - for alicn technology. With increasingly fantastic and brutal weaponary, the cold war gets hot as you fight from planet in planet for your country's and democracy's survival. A multiplayer first person combar action/strategy game set in the

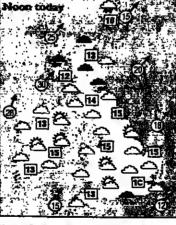
1960's and early 1970's, Battlezone combines the best features of current best selling strategy games with a revolutionary 3D radar interface and seamless first person immersion in deliver an unprecedenced gaming experience. Battlezone has already received critical acdaim achieving scores of 93% and 91% from PC Gamer and PC Format respectively.

Te enter this competition dial, the number below, answer the following question on line and leave your name and full address,

Q: What was the name of the comet seen last year visible with the naked eye?

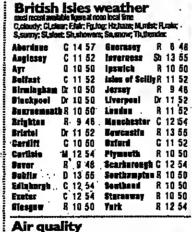
Call 0930 563402

WEATHER



Northern Scotland will have a cloudy day with rain spreading from the south. However, rain over southern Scotland, northern England and Northern Ireland will die away, leaving a bright alternoon with sunstine breaking through. Wates and the southern half of England will start overcast and drizzly but most places will become dry. It will stay grey and misty around southern and western coasts but inland it will brighten up with some hazy but warm sunstane in the alternoon.

Outlook for the next few days Very mild or even warm twough the next lew days but it is going to be unsettled. There'll be rain across the whole country, although the south-east will start off dry and boots. More rain will move across on Sunday. some of it heavy, especially over western Scotland. This will clear away to leave a brighter day on Monday with spells of sunshine, but the odd shower is still possible, with steedy rain inturning to the south later.



Air quality

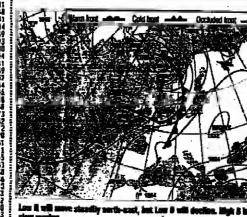
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Lighting-up times Sun & moon 18.50 to 06.07 18.32 to 05.52 18.35 to 05.55 18.44 to 05.59 18.25 to 05.46

Atlantic chart, noon today



MICHAEL HANLON

WEATHER WISE

THE 14 people who perished in a tomado in Hall County, Georgia, last weekend were victims of an often deadly and impressively powerful meteorological phenomenon. Those experiencing the hurricanes common a few hundred miles to the south are witnesses to even more awesome forces. But just how much energy is there in the weather?

In 1975, the meteorologist György Koppány calculated the kinetic energy of a number of weather phenomena, and a comparison can be made with the energy of various human activities. An average tornado such as the

one in Georgia releases about a billion kilojoules of energy in a few minutes, about the same as all the street lights in London consume in a whole night. A single stroke of lightning, lasting a fraction of a second, liberates as much energy as a London bus running for 24 hours. A Jumbo jet flying for a day and a night burns enough fuel to power a light April shower. A summer thunderstorm lasting an hour, with several dozen lightning strokes, torrential rain and all the upward convection of a large cumulus

the Nagasaki atomic bomh. Larger phenomena release even more formidable amounts of energy; jet streams, the high-level, high-speed winds that govern the tracks of depressions and help airliners on their eastward journey across the Atlantic, are equivalent in energy terms to a full-scale nuclear war. ■ Thanks to improved computers scientists may be able to provide much better long-term weather forecasts. Seasonal forecasts of up to six months ahead are at present far less reliable than the daily forecasts issued to the public. This is because the circulation systems governing the weather are by nature chaotic and unpredictable.

cloud, equals the energy output of

But writing in the science journal Nature this week, Tim Stockdale at the European Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasts in Reading, Berkshire, describes how his team has used super-fast computers to successfully predict the weather several months abead.

The new machines were able to predict the wet summer in southern Europe last year, and, nccording to Mr Stockdale, have forecast a warm summer ahead for us. Accurate long-range forecasts will have a profound effect. Farmers would pay dearly to know just when the ideal time will be to collect the harvest, and the railway companies might just be able to cope with the wrong kind of snow. if they knew it was coming.



Recycled paper made up 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the first half of 1997.

عكدًا من الاعل

Top five most overcrowded

Transport Correspondent

FIVE out of 10 train companies operating key commuter routes serving London are officially overcrowded, according to Government figures released yesterday.

They break peak-hour overcrowding limits - set when the services were privatised - and things could get even worse with passenger numbers close to record levels in

The boom in railway use could see

Under complex arrangements set up rail firm is too successful it can apply for more public subsidy to meet months. unexpected passenger numbers".

One company close to the "upper limit" is Connex South Eastern. Central network - which runs trains which serves Kent commuters. It already receives £80m a year in public subsidy and currently carries more than 115,000 passengers in the morning rush-hour.

If this figure increases to more

taxpayers buying extra rolling stock than 120,000, the company could ask ellers are being squeezed into spaces bers, said the current travelling pop-- which each cost £750,000 At the when the railways were sold off, if a expected rates of growth, it will breach the limits in a little over 12

> The most packed carriages could be found on the Connex South from London to Surrey and Sussex. The service carried about 60,000 passengers in the morning rush-hour last year - roughly 3,500 more than it should, and 1,000 above the official threshold. Other lines where trav-

 the biggest commuter train service - and Great Eastern, which ferries passengers between Liverpool Street and East Anglia.

Londoo's booming economy has seen the number of people travelling by train into the capital leap 8.9 per cent from 724,500 last year to nearly 789,000 in the daily rush hours.

John O'Brien, the franchising director who monitors passenger num-

for successful private companies, the taxpayer to fund new carriages too small to handle them include ulation is likely now to be "very close" Thameslink - which runs from Bed- to the highest-ever levels recorded ford to Brighton; South West Trains in 1989 when 813,800 people rode the railways in the rash hour.

Officials at franchising Offices' rules state that the number of passengers in excess of capacity must not exceed 4.5 per cent of the total number of passengers in either the morning or evening peaks - and no more than 3 per cent over the two peaks combined.

Companies have been forced to act. Great Eastern is providing an ex-

tra 1,500 seats in the morning rush hour and an extra 2,100 in the evening. Chiltern will have 12 oew trains in service by May and eight more by September. Connex is also providing an extra 2,314 seats, Thameslink is increasing capacity by 4 per cent in peak hours, and South West Trains is providing an extra

Gavin Strang, the transport minister, warned it was "not good enough that five out of 10 train companies are operating io excess of peak-hour overcrowding limits."

World tunes in to street party of the year

Thousands are heading for tomorrow's march to back the decriminalisation of cannabis. Graham Ball reports

IT IS GOING to be the best streets in the same cause; freestreet party Londoo has enjoyed for years. Thousands of sup-Sunday's campaign to decrimtomorrow's march through the na should not be sent to prison capital in carnival mood.

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seriousness of the issue, campaigners plan to turn the march, from Hyde Park to Trafalgar Square, into more of a cele- of the cannabis marchers might bration than a demonstration.

Sarah Russell, a mature stunon Leeds is one of hundreds who rang our special march informatioo line: "We have organised our own coach and are hoping like mad that the weather is going to hold up hecause we are determined to have a great time. It will be just like one big party to be with so many like-minded campaigners

... saying it loud and proud." Yesterday columnist Charles Glass, writing in the Evening. Standard, urged Londoners to support the march. "I call on everyone who came out for the

porters of The Independent on men, women and children will inalise cannabis are heading for that those who smoke marijuafor it. Smokers are not a crim-And despite the underlying inal minority, they are just ordinary people," he wrote.

However, unlike the Countryside Rally supporters, some Jook more than, a little hleary eyed. "A large oumber of flyers quite a oumber of enthusiasts have said they will go straight to Hyde Park from their allworker for Release, the drugs



CAMPAIGN WHO'S WHO

THE CAMPAIGN to decriminalise cannabis has won backing from some of Britain's liveliest minds. Anita Roddick, founder of the Body Shop ethical cosmetics chain, spoke movingly at the seminar on decriminalisation organised by The Independent on Sunday last December.

her chain of shops would introduce a range of beauty products based on hempseed extracts - drawing the wrath of former Tory Home Office Minister Anne Widdecombe.

Richard Branson, the entrepreneur businessman, has lent his name and backing to the campaign. Sir

Paul McCartney, while supportive, bas preferred to play a low-profile role in the campaign. The visual arts have

been represented by film directors Mike Leigh and Peter Greenaway, Fay Weldon, A N Wilson and Nick Homby are among a host of leading writers to Prominent medical supporters include Dr Philip Robsón, consultant psychiatrist at the Warneford Hospital, and Professor Steven

Rose, director of the Brain and Behaviour Research Group at the Open University. For march information ring: 0181-964 2692.

FO alert on risks of travel to Madrid

A FOREIGN Office warning that British visitors to Madrid face increasing danger of robbery and violent attacks has led to a travel company offering refunds to customers, write Elizabeth Nash and Kim Sengupta.

In just two weeks, more than 100 clients have taken up the offer from Air Miles of refunds or holidays at alternative destinations.

The Foreign Office advice to travellers, issued two weeks ago, was based on information supplied by the British Embassy in Madrid. "Statistics indicated that things were getting out of hand, Thirty-two British people this month alone have reported robberies in Madrid, and we have issued 24 new passports since the beginning of March to replace ones stolen. It's a big increase," an embassy spokesman said yesterday.

Advice seot to travel agencies warned of "an increase in violent crime, especially in Madrid where a growing number of people have had valuahles stolen. This is ofteo accompanied by threats of and actual violence, sometimes involving weapons."

In a letter to travellers, Air Miles, based at Crawley, Sussex says: "If ... you wish to cancel or change your booking, we will of course be happy to help you ind a replacement de or in the event of you wanting to cancel your present booking prior to travel, we would - in this instance - refund your payments and/or Air Miles in full."

But the Spanish government, sensitive to any threat to its tourism industry, has sprung to the capital's defence, "Our official statistics do not bear out the British claims," a spokeswoman for the foreign ministry said.

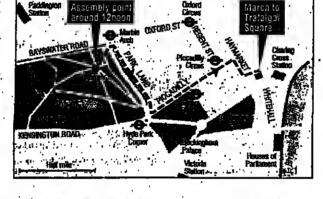
rally. "The extraordinary level dom. From Marble Arch to of media interest that has al-Trafalgar Square, thousands of ready been created by this parade to show the Government bold in Britain will have the op-

the London chib scene and . of the Independent on Sunday night parties," said a volunteer television is in London to cov-Labour MP Paul Flynn who

is trying to get cross-party support for drug-law reform believes the march is already a march on the Internet. Prelimsuccess. "Notwithstanding an earthquake or flood this march has already achieved a great deal," said Mr Flynn who will tionally, and Australian radio countryside to return to the speak at the Trafalgar Square and the BBC World Service France. A strong delegation is into the early hours.

march means that every houseportunity of discussing the subject of cannabis and the law. this weekend. As things stand, the three major parties are conspiring to stifle debate on . this subject. There is one simple message to get across and that is decriminalisation works, prohibition does not work."

Supporters are not just ralmarch went international, creating a buzz of home and overseas media activity. Canadian er the march and an Italian radio station is going to transmit coverage of the whole of tomorrow's event live. There are even plans to broadcast the inary television interviews with some of the speakers have already been syndicated interna-



have also featured the march in their oews coverage.

The message seems to have got out into the wider world this week. We have had dozens of law reform. After the march Mr calls from Europe. One group of individuals from Paris rang to ask which was the nearest coming over on Eurostar for the day," said Chris Brown who has been working oo the march information phone line this week. Other groups are expected

from Holland, Belgium and

expected from Rome to support Marco Pannella the founder of the Italian Radical Party and veteran campaigner for drug-

Pannella is planning his own

press conference.

Others will be going to the tube for Hyde Park as they were special after-march party organised by Hempology at the Cloud Nine club in London SE1. Doors open at 10 pm and will feature a guest appearance of Trafalgar Square speaker Howard Marks who is to DJ

Comedy danger man back on air

CHRIS MORRIS. Britain's mos innovative and risqué, broadcaster took to the airwaves again in the early hours this morning. but only his most avid fans which unbelievably include the sober suits at the Independent Television Commission - and insomniacs will be able to hearhim, writes Paul McCann.

Radio 1 starts a new series of his weird music and comedy show Blue Jam at 1am. Which proves that the station is yet to completely forgive Morris for using its airwaves in the past to get MPs to comment on the fictitious death of Michael Heseltine or to announce that Jimmy Savile was dead.

Blue Jam is a strange mixture of music, monologues and sketches - some of which are the funpiest and most distasteful to be found on television or radio.

In ooe memorable sketch in the last series a gentle-voiced acupuncturist explained to her patient how "You may feel a little tingle when I put this one in." Which was theo followed by the sound of ooisy hammering and the acupuncturist saying: "The nails I use are between nine and 14 inches long and half an inch thick. They must go through the body part and at least two inches into the table, otherwise the pa-

tient will slide off ..." Another sketch featured a doctor whose only therapeutic skill was to "kiss it better" who is visited by patients with increasingly lewdly positiooed ailments. It may be that the BBC sinIN THE NEWS

CHRIS MORRIS

cerely believes that Morris's humour is only suitable for those whose mental state has been altered sufficiently by drink or drugs at lam so that they get the joke and the corporation has advertised the show widely - but it still seems a criminal waste of Britain's most cutting-edge comedy talent. The BBC will only let him on

air because the show is prerecorded and edited.

Morris, 35, started in broadcasting on BBC local radio until he was sacked by BBC Bristol for eating an apple over a news broadcast. After a stint on GLR, which has hosted almost all the Nineties television comedy talent. he teamed up with writer Armando Iannuci, Steve Coogan and Patrick Marber to create the spoof Radio 4 news show On The Hour - the place where Alan Partridge was born and which transferred to TV as The Day Today.

He refuses to talk to journalists on the record, although is not adverse to leaking spoof stories about himself and lives a quiet life in Brixton with his actress partner Joanna Unwin and young son.

His last brush with authority was when he inserted a very rude subliminal message about former Channel 4 chief executive Michael Grade in his series Bruss Eye. That cost him a sizeable chunk of the programme fee and may mean a long hiatus before he is back on Channel 4. It probably also explains the Radio 1 start time for Blue Jam. The BBC, which turned down

the chance to air Brass Eye, is probably also mindful of the time Morris fooled two MPs into condemning a fictitious drug called "cake". David Amess, Tory MP for Southend West was even induced to wear the T-shirt of a fictitious anti-drugs organisation known as F.U.K.D & B.O.M.B.D while holding a giant yellow pill that was purported to be "cake" while shouting to camera: "This is a made up drug."
Yet in upholding the MPs'

complaints about the programme the television watchdog, the ITC, went out of its way to praise the show as "innovative and amusing". Despite such official sanction, for now Morris is mainly just



Chris Morris: pre-recorded and edited

PAYING THE WAY

Chris Martins first spoof sketch was for BBC Radio Cambridgeshire, a report, entitled "Min steps off pavement" which was reported: in great detail and involved reaction interviews Celebrities taken in by Morris's phoney Brass in supposed members of the public.

TALKING THE MICKEY He doesn't just do pranks for the au-dience At BBC Cambridgeshire he filled sign with helium just before a broad-so that the news reader sounded er about Michael Grade in the last ensinge of Brass Eye could only have

been seen by someone with industrystandard editing equipment.

Eye Interviews were: Noel Edmonds, Claire Rayner, Bernard Manning, Carla Lane, Lynsey de Paul, David Amess, MP for Southend West, and Sir Graham Bright, MP for Litton South.

Celebrities falsely killed off by Chris Morris: Noel Edmonds (murdered by Clive Anderson), Jimmy Saville, Michael





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Poignant last seconds of Stephen Lawrence

By Kathy Marks

A POIGNANT account of the last few minutes of the life of Stephen Lawrence was given yesterday by a couple who looked after him as he lay dying in a pool of blood on the pavement

Conor Taaffe told the public inquiry into the black teenager's death that he and his wife, Louise, knelt down beside him after be was stabbed. Mrs Taaffe held Stephen's head in her hands and spoke into his ear, telling him: "You are loved, you

Neville Lawrence, Stephen's father, teft the room during Mr Thaffe's evidence and several people in the public galiery

Stephen, 18, was attacked by a white gang in Eltham, southeast London, five years ago as

Murder hunt:

Aberfovle.

Actor dies

against illness.

Londoo hospital

of Taking Sides.

iff court, Tayside.

is accused of failing to comply with a condition of a certificate

of airworthiness, and of acting

in a manner likely to endanger

the aircraft and its occupants.

A MAN of 20 who was ar-

rested in connection with the murder of schoolgirl Kate

Bushell was released last

the investigation into the

questioned at Exeter since

Lick away gloom

EATING ice cream makes

you happy, researchers claim.

The Associates for Research

Into the Science of Enjoyment

says people who enjoy eating

ice cream are twice as likely to

IN an article published on 24

March headlined "Girls

smoke to appear cool for their

boyfriends", it was stated that

the report Smoking in Ado-

lescence: Images and Identities

was the work of the Trust for

the Study of Adolescence. We

have been asked to point out

that it was written by Dr Bar-

bara Lloyd, senior research fel-

low and Dr Kevin Lucas,

visiting research fellow, of

Sussex University.

be happy than stressed.

Correction

his arrest on Wednesday.

A spokeswoman for Devon

night, police said.

Suspect freed

Pilot accused

Brooks, waited for a late-night vertising manager, told the inbus bome.

The public inquiry, chaired by Sir William Macpherson of Cluny, has been told of crucial delays and errors by police who investigated the racially-motivated murder.

Mr Taaffe said that he and his wife prayed for Stephen and stroked his head in the final moments of his life. When he arrived home, he said, he washed some of the teenager's blood from his hands and poured the water under a rose bush in his garden. "I thought that, in some ways, perhaps he is living on,"

The couple were walking home from a prayer meeting at church when they saw Stephen and Duwayne running in the other direction. At first, they thought they might be

he and his friend, Duwayne muggers, Mr Taaffe, 32, an ad-

"At the time, I did sense immediately something wrong, something dangerous," he said. "You just know." They then saw Stephen stumble, clutch his body and collapse to the ground. Mr Taaffe said that his wife told him: "Conor, this is se-

Duwayne, who was trying to flag down traffic and was extremely agitated, told them that Stephen had been at-tacked. "I saw blood on the ground," Mr Taafe said. "It was thick, congealed blood, quite a

"I was praying in a whisper: Bless him Lord Jesus, keep him Lord Jesus, have mercy on him'." At one point, he said, Stephen involuntarily moved his head and sounded "as if he

was choking, trying to breathe". Mr Taaffe described how

his wife spoke into Stephen's ear. "Both of us knew that the hearing was one of the last things to go, and she said: 'You are loved, you are loved'." Wheo police arrived, he said, Constable Linda Bethet

put a finger in froot of Stepheo's mouth and said that she thought be was still breathing. "I tried, and felt nothing." Mr Taaffe said he was aware

of other racist attacks in the area. "Every time I see a black person in Eltham, I just feel sorry for them," he said.

Five white youths were accused of Stephen's murder, but charges against two of them were dropped before the case came to court. The other three were acquitted in 1996.

The inquiry continues today.



perbel that of Dece

and the

Mual General

leenage magazines will warn on pregnancy risk

By Glenda Cooper Social Affairs Correspondent

and Cornwall police said that killing of Kate, 14, would con-TEENAGE magazines are to be tinue. The man had been used to help alert girls to the dangers of under-age sex after figures revealed the highest

> cies in more than 10 years, the Government said yesterday. Tessa Jowell, the public health minister, has met magazine editors to discuss ways of educating young girls on the risks of under-age sex as letters to the magazines from teenage girls revealed "woeful levels of

oumber of schoolgirl pregnan-

ignorance", she said. In the past the teen magazines have been criticised for being too sexually explicit. In 1996, the Conservative MP Peter Luff attacked the magazines for their "squalid titiliation, salaciousness and smut", and he introduced a Bill to force them to carry age warnings on sexually

explicit material The same year the first report from the Teedage Magazine Arbitration Panel censured Sugar and Bliss for printing unrepresentative figures in surveys which suggested, falsely, that the vast majority of readers were has been such a rise. The Government sexually active.

But Ms Jowell believes the magazines will influence young der-age pregnancies. A nations readers. Speaking at a conference organised by the Family Planning Association at the Royal Society of Arts in Loodon, she said: "Many teenagers who find it difficult to talk to parents get their information from teenage magazines.

"So, yes, we do see them as having an important part to play in getting good and responsible information over to teenagers, both boys and girls

There is no point in the Government creating a national programme, to combat teenage pregnancies, that teenagers up and down the country turn their back on because they see it as irrelevant."

The move follows annual figures for 1996 which revealed half had abortions. The contween 1995 and 1996 and it is until you are ready."

ernment is currently looking at ways to tackle the number of unal programme is expected to be launched in May

Evidence shows that some teenage girls do not know that if you have sex you will get preg nant, or that if you kiss some one with your clothes on that? you will not get pregnant.

"It is levels of ignorance that exposes the vulnerability of certain young girls. These are real cries for help This is not about advocating sex, it is recognising the reality of life," Ms Jowell said.

"Pretending too many young children are having sex is not going to achieve anything. We need to recognise that many are, too many are, in ignorance of the consequences for them."

Marina Gask, editor of Sugthat 8,800 girls aged 15 and un- ar said that the magazines der became pregnant. About would be offering "scraible advice about taking responsiception rate among girls aged bility for yourself and not rush-13 to 15 rose by 11 per cent being into a sexual relationship بكنا من الاعل

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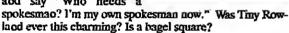
A HIGHLY MOTIVATED group of football fanatics is planning to ignore the authorities' stern warning and head across the Channel to the World Cup. Despite Tony Blair's caution to MPs not to abuse their VIP status, the all-party Commons football team is planning to play a match at one of the French venues against a select XI of Gallic politicians. Pandora can suggest one reason why the Prime Minister should not object to this clear violation of his recent edict. What could be more tranquillising - indeed hilarious - for the highly emotional fans than the sight of a group of fat, middle-aged MPs waddling about the pitch?

Frankly thinking

WHEN Frank Field became social security minister he was touted as someone who would "think the nnthinkable". Yesterday the nation was given a look at his bold thoughts in his Green Paper on welfare reform. Pandora's reaction was to go to his website at the department of social security and initiate a search for anything "unthinkable". The result, as expected, read "No documents found matching these words." Perhaps we would have better luck if we removed the prefix "un" from "thinkable" and attached it to "remark

Old King Cole

WORD has leaked out of Harrods's executive sanctum about Mobamed Al Fayed's droll new toy. He has acquired a glamorous wig that duplicates Michael Cole's lofty hairstyle. Wheo visitors arrive in his sumptuous office. Mohamed likes to don the wig aod say "Who needs a



just the boyo for Labour

CONGRATULATIONS to New Labour in Gwynedd, Wales on your latest recruit. Owain Williams, the farmer who served as an Independent Welsh nationalist councillor for the past 10 years, has just switched his allegiance to. Labour. No doubt Caernarfon, which is 75 per cent Welsh-speaking, has oot forgotten Williams's patriotic deeds in the early Sixties, including blowing up the dam of the reservoir which supplies most of Liverpool's water for which he served a year in prison. Does he have national political aspirations? Might Pandora suggest Peter Mandelsoo should waste no time sending Owain one of those nice bleepers so he can stay firmly "on-message".

Whizzkid's counter offer

WHATEVER happened to Mike Ovitz, superagent founder of CAA, former president of Disney, and one of the most feared meo in California? He met his match for ruthlessness in Disney chairman Michael Eisner and had to settle for a golden parachute worth hundreds of millions of dollars. Ovitz, who once represented most of Hollywood's biggest stars, has gone into the shopping-mall business. According to Variety, he's just signed a deal with a firm called Glimcher Realty to open "The Mall at Polaris" in Columbus, Ohio. What's the budget? A whopping \$1.5m - slightly less than Mike used to spend oo designer mineral water back in his CAA days.

Deeper shade of puce

HEY, all you Deep Purple fans, check out this pile of hype! Now you can buy a Ritchie Blackmore statuette "in a limited edition of 500 created by one of the UK's top sculptors". If you too learned to play the guitar while following Ritchie's unforgettably banal riff on "Smoke in the Water", you'll recognize that £95 is a bargain. On the other hand, don't be disappointed if you don't receive a .. "cold-cast porcelain" Ritchie as sculpted by Sir Eduardo Paolozzi or daubed by Lucien Freud. Come to think of it, Deep Purple was not exactly the Beatles.

Pandora

Britain's export showcase is hot air

Nonie Niesewand previews an exhibition offering a snapshot of British inventions

FOUR silver inflatable drams filled with hot air and positioned at Horse Guards Parade, within sight of Buckingham Palace, are to become London's latest adventure playground.

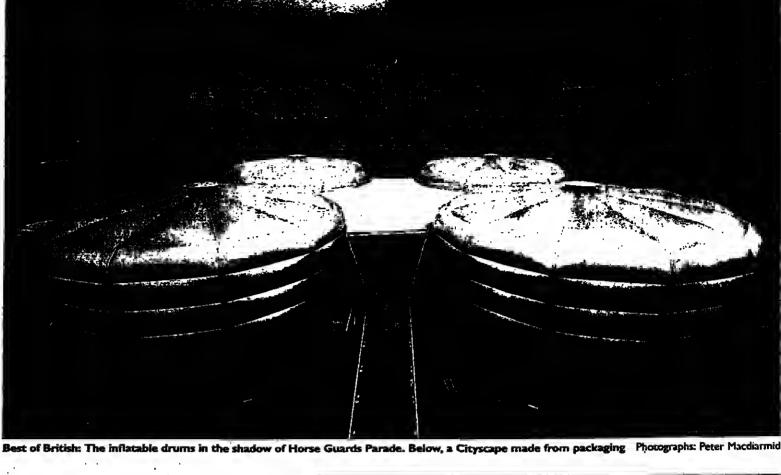
Powerhouse:: uk is the Department of Trade and Industry's showcase exhibition to nerate interest in exports. British film, fashion, music, science and technology, packaging and products will be seen by heads of state from Asia and Europe when Tony Blair opens ASEM2 on 2 April.

Royal Parks officials would not allow the architects Branson Coates to dig foundations on the historic site, but this portable architecture is more than just a stage set. It is designed to be a travelling road show. "Like Britain, it's on the move," says Nigel Coates. Cables to generate all the onscreen entertainment and sound are run from a generator within Admiralty Arch.

Marketing jargon inspired four themes in each pod -Communications, Lifestyle, Networking and Learning. Digital information and video screens run alongside objects. Even they are oo the move.

Scalectrix whizzes buses and taxies with billboards around the Communications drum past a Cityscape made of packaging. St Paul's is made from Conran's Bluebird wine boxes, book jackets, tins and CD covers, Bjork's new album is on the wall and so are the fashion photographer Nick Knight's flower pictures. "I wanted to show that cities are an incredible resource," Nigel Coates said. "They make you come alive. Like my architecture which is much more than a purely aesthetic functional object."

In Lifestyle, 31 suitcases move along a carousel designed is displayed as is a thin televilike a slalom ski slope varying in height and direction. These suitcases open up to reveal Psion calculators, fold-up chairs of all who visit beamed on to it. public from 4 April to 19 April.



that turn into coffee tables by the furniture design company Jam, an aluminium stacking chair by Ron Arad, Professor of Furniture at the Royal College of Art, which was made in the same factory in Worcestershire McQueen's bustier, or stilettoes by Manolo Blahnik.

"Nothing precious. No objects in a design strait-jacket," Nigel Coates explains,

Across to the Learning drum. where five potting sheds are used to germinate ideas. John Innes potting soils show how stance can fight cancer, a computerised artificial limb sion screen made of gas plasma, down one side of which there are cameras taking mug shots

The fifth shed in learning belongs to the Royal College of Art although Powerhouse:; uk is RCA-led, Claire Catterall, the exhibition's curator, admits that more than 70 per ceot of Britain's designers are RCA as aircraft bodies, Alexander postgraduates. She won't accept the cool Britannia label. "Cool is so now. Exciting and energetic design has been going oo in Britain for years," she says, "It comes partly from our heritage, bloody mindedness, the fact that we are an island. This ex-

hibition is a snapshot for oow." Networking shows bow crecabbages fed a certain sub- ativity is sparked. St Luke's advertising agency - the first to be owned by its staff - has offices invented for landmine victims themed for clients, where nobody has a desk but moves into a room with their mobile and a satchel full of ideas. Powerhouse:: uk opens to the



Child killer to be kept under watch

Correspondent.

ganisations, such as schools, may be alerted if Cooke returns to his old east London haunts,

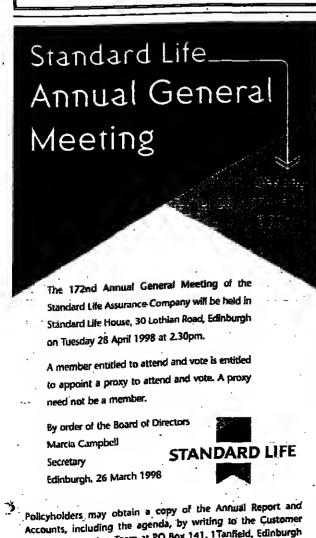
Cooke is due to be released from Wandsworth prison in south-west London on 6 April ofter serving nine years of a 16-year sentence for the manslaughter of Jason Swift, aged 14, who was abducted and raped.

Widespread concerns have been raised about what will he added.

rience of Robert Oliver, a member of the same gang jailed for killing Jason, who immediately visited a beach and library to

Deputy Assistant Commissiooer Bill Griffiths, of the Metropolitan Police, confirmed police surveillance was being considered. "There's a range of options, it could be about alerting the public, it could be about rehousing," he said. "Unless you lock them up to infinity, they are all going to come out. What we have got to do is manage the risk associated with the individual,"

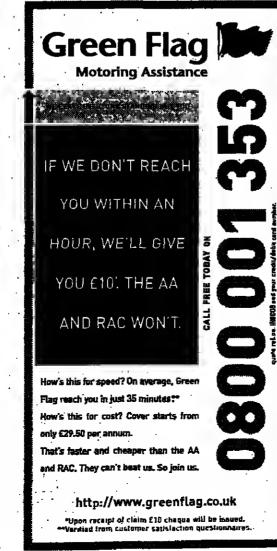
SIDNEY Cooke, the child killer, happen to Cooke once he is almost certain to be placed unleaves jail, following the expeder police surveillance as soon as he leaves jail early next mouth, writes Jason Bennetto, Crime Scotland Yard also revealed watch children. that the public and other or-



Service Information Team at PO Box 141, 1Tanfield, Edinburgh

EH3 SRG or by telephoning 0845 60 60 070. Proxy forms may

be similarly obtained by members entitled to vote.





It's too late to halt millennium bug, say experts

Political Editor

FIXING the millennium computer bug is impossible, and action should now be directed at damage limitation, two of the country's leading hug-husters warned yesterday.

Robin Guenier, bead of the independent Taskforce 2000, said: "It is now fanciful to pretend that the problem will be solved. It is, put quite simply. too late." He called for a concerted campaign to minimise inevitable disruption.

His warning prompted of Action 2000, the government's official campaign group, on the threat - posed by the fact to say: "We are too late to have a totally trouble-free transition to the new millennium.

"The millennium is a problem that will affect every man. woman and child in the world. We must prioritise our actions were openness and accountto make sure that the most viand leave the rest for later." .

Those heavy warnings were underlined by William Hague, the Conservative Party leader. who told a breakfast meeting of Asian business people that the

the leadership nor the sense of urgeocy required to deal with the 2000 problem. "It's time for the dithering to stop," be said. "Today, I urge the Prime Minister to take urgent action to put right his Government's record

There is no media database record of Mr Hague ever having mentioned the issue before, and he has never asked the Prime Minister about it in Commons question time, although his spokesman said he had raised it in private meetings with

With Tony Blair preparing to address a London conference that many computers will be unable to cope with the two-digit date 00 from the end of next year - Mr Guenier offered his own plan for damage limitation.

He said that the key oeeds ability, with identified ministers sponsible for what was being done. In particular, he said

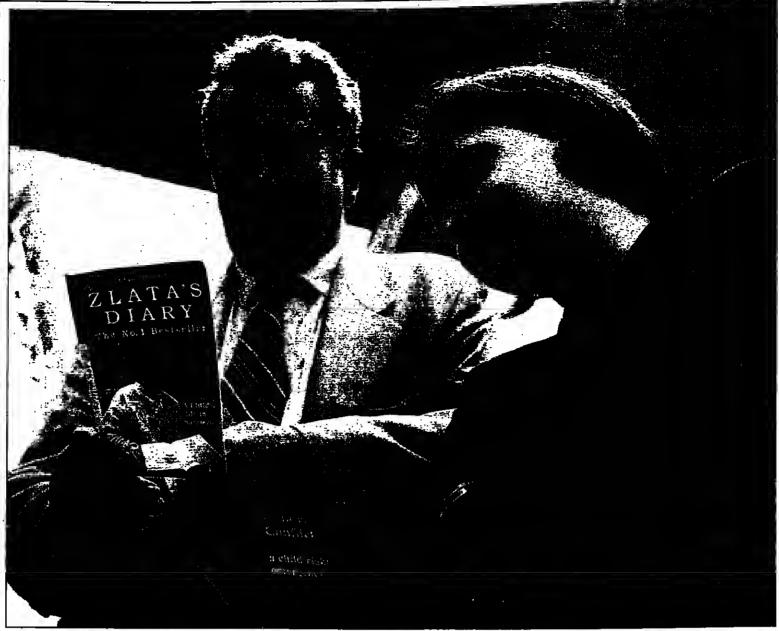
Government had shown neither plans, cootingency plans for breakdown - and the names of people in charge of tackling the

"The chief executives of all major utilities should be requested by government to provide a public assurance that there will be no service interruption as a result of the datechange," Mr Guenier said.

He also urged the Stock Exchange to require all listed companies to provide full details of compliance budgets and plans. "Companies which don't comply should have at least the threat of de-listing," he said. "This is the Stock Exchange's duty in relation to investors."

He urged all those actions to be delivered by June, but he also called on the Bank of England. the Prime Minister, the European Commission, and world leaders to act - and fast

With a Cabinet committee already considering emergency cootingency plans for breaktal computer systems are fixed, and executives being held re- downs in critical power and transport infrastructure - which could threaten food, fuel and ministers should publish lists of power supplies - Mr Guenier critical systems, stating levels of said that details of national confidence of achieving mil- contingency plans should be lennium compliance, budget published by August.



Veterans reunited: MP Martin Bell, who was a war correspondent in the former Yugoslavia, and Zlata Filipovic – author of Zlata's Diary, the story of her childhood in war-torn Sarajevo – at the launch of a Unicel report called 'Children in Conflict' at London's Imperial War Museum Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

Which free pair will



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The Strangler looms over backbench Bills

Chief Political Correspondent

THE Westminster Strangler is poised to strike again today in the House of Commons, and there is nothing the authorities can do about it.

Former Tory education minister Eric Forth's speciality is killing backbench Bills. After objecting to some Bills last Friday, his constituents have been telephoning his office asking n not to do it again. But M Forth, 53, is unrepentant, and, like a Hollywood horror star, there is no way of stopping him.

All he has to do at 2.30pm is to stand up and shout "object", and he will effectively finish off a host of private members' Bills through lack of parliamentary time. The list today includes measures on animal health, traffic reduction, public record, and restrictions oo the use of electro-convulsive

Also due for the Forth treatment is the the Wild Mammals (Hunting with Dogs) Bill to ban forhunting, now low in the queue and still needing to pass its report and third reading before it can go off to the Lords, after being held up by Tory opponents. It has no chance of getting past Mr Forth.

Some could have reached the Statute Book, given a fair time, wears his sideburns long wind in both Houses of Parliament, but if he shouts "object" they may all be slaughtered. because he resents the way the cost anything."



Eric Forth: An MP in the foxhunting, hanging mould

The MP for Bromley and Chislehurst, the comfortable suburbs of south London, says he is not killing Bills because he is fond of foxhunting.

Mr Forth, who has a pen-

chant for bright ties, natty waistcoats, and who sings country and western songs in his spare is targeting the backbench Bills

Commons is being asked to nod them through without enough

"I object to the large oumber of Bills that we seem to be expected to nod through. I still cling to this old-fashioned view that the House of Commons is a legislative body and it is expected to look at these measures

"I don't expect them all to go through oo the nod. These Bills are supposed to be looked

One of Mr Forth's friends said: "He is a very pure Conscrvative. He is very principled, a genuine free-market libertarian.

"He doesn't believe in big government. And be's got style. He's quite charismatic."

He was a communist at school in Glasgow, and after switching to the Tories at Glasgow university was an MEP in Birmingham from 1979 until 1984, when be won his first Commons seat for Mid-Worcestershire. A former buyer for Ford motor company, be has always been on the Tory right and is regarded as independentminded, pro-hanging and anti-

socialist Mr Forth told The Independent he did not feel guilty about what he is doing. "I have always believed we have too much legislation, and the private and his heart on his sleeve. He member's Bill procedure was about small issues that did not

Tories turn into the listening party in membership drive

By Anthony Bevins

THE Tories are to open themprocedures tomorrow when the results of a ballot of party members are announced at a Conservative Central Council meeting in Harrogate.

Celebrating his 37th birthday yesterday, William Hague unveiled plans for a new party business liaison unit which will help channel the views of business to the party leadership.

"The Conservative Party is listening. Listening to people, listening to business," Mr Hague said. "We are getting back in touch with the hopes, aspirations and values of the people of this country."

One of the more consumerfriendly aspects of the reform programme will be the setting up of a national telephone hotline, from tomorrow, which the party. Mr Hagne has set a committee to monitor stan-

target of doubling the Conser- dards; Conservative Future, a members by 2000, and new reselves up to more democratic cruits will be able to use the hotline to join by credit card, with an annual maximum subscription of £15, with special deals for existing members.

Robin Hodgson, chairman of the Conservative National Union, the party's voluntary wing, said that the reform package "brings the volunteers to the centre of the party, where they haven't been in the past, and it will give them enormous influ-

ence if they wish to use it". The National Union - which was founded in 1867 - along with the Central Council, and much else of the old Conservative Party, are to be ditched and replaced by a oew, partelected party board, and a national convention of constituency party chairmen.

Other Conservative innovapeople will be able to use to join tions will include: an etbics

varive Party's estimated 330,000 new youth wing; a women's network; a policy forum; and onemember, one-vote election of future party leaders from a short-list drawn up by members of the 1922 Committee of MPs.

One senior party source told The independent that the reforms marked a fundamental shift in the balance of power within the party.

He said that oo potential leader would ever again be able to ignore the party grassroots - in the knowledge that their votes would be required to secure the top job.

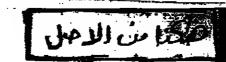
"In future," the source said, "any MP with ambition is going to be very careful to look after the party constituency associations. With each succeeding year, and each succceding leadership election to come, the position of the par-

volunteers activists is going to be strength-

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Stepfather takes stand to deny

Zoe sex killing

MILES EVANS, a soldier, body six weeks tater. She had use one as a nightshirt. He bestood in the witness box yes- died of suffocation caused by lieved he last saw the shirt terday and denied involvement her crop-top garment being in the murder of his nine-yearold stepdaughter, Zoe. He also through inhaling blood from her denied having removed her nose, which, the prosecution has the time Zoe disappeared he from the family home at alleged, had been broken by a loved his wife, Paula, who Warminster, Wiltshire, or having sexually abused her.

nials in answer to questions pants, both of which were from Alun Jenkins QC, for the stained with the child's blood, hours in the witness box at of Pte Evans's semen, which be Bristol Crown Court on the said had come from a love-makninth day of his trial. He has denied murdering Zoe between fore Zoe's disappearance. 9-12 January last year.

In his evidence, Ptc Evans, who is in the Royal Logistics him through the details of his Corps, also denied having left movements in the days before his dark blue T-shirt behind af- Zoe's disappearance and the ter the killing - a garment days afterwards and before her soaked with Zoe's blood which body was found on 26 February. the Crown say is "crucial" in its .. case against him. Pte Evans, 24. "Did you kill Zoe?" Pte Evans: also said he was not suggesting

near Warminster Barracks on 11 Pte Evans: "No, I did not." January as his wife - a heavy ger set on nearby Battlesbury

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pushed into her mouth, and weeks before Zoe vanished. blow from a fist. The prosecu-

tion has said Pte Evans left his Private Evans made his de- T-shirt and a pair of Zoe's defence, after he spent two nearby. The shirt also had stains ing session with his wife days be-Pte Evans's denials came

after Mr Jenkins had taken Mr Jenkins asked Pte Evans:

"No, 1 did not." Mr Jenkins: in any way that his wife Paula, "Did you have any part in tak-29, was involved in the murder. ing Zoe to Battlesbury Hill?" The prosecution alleges Pte Pte Evans: "No, I did not." Mr Evans took Zoe from the fam- Jenkins: "Did you have any ily's home in married quarters part at all in assaulting Zoe?"

The soldier also said he had sleeper - slept in their upstairs not interfered sexually with the bedroom. It says be took Zoe girl or attempted to do so. He outside to attack and murder admitted he liked little girls but her, then buried her in a bad- not in a sexual way. Asked about his T-shirt, Pte Evans said that sometimes his wife wore Police found Zoe's naked them and that Zoe might also

when it was on his washing line

Pte Evans agreed that at ness last week. The jury has

Ptc Evans agreed that for over him in bed, to have broken the child's nose and buried her. Mr Pascoe asked: "I want to know whether directly or indirectly you are saying to this jury 'I think Paula killed Zoe'." Pte Evans: "No."

The trial continues.



Ahoy! Wrens on HMS Invincible look out for their families among hundreds of well-wishers on the quayside at Portsmouth yesterday as the aircraft carrier docked after seven months at sea. Due home at Christmas, she was delayed by the crisis in the Gulf

Cunningham in row over cattle burials

Environment Correspondent

THE Agriculture Minister, Jack pollution incidents caused by Cunningham, yesterday de- the practice. "It is something we manded proof that an increase are looking out for," said a in burials of farm animals was threatening severe and dan- Environmental Protection gerous water pollution and a potential health hazard. Only if coming would he take action, he said.

He was speaking after the Today programme on Radio 4 reported that more carcasses were being buried in pits on farmland, breaking guidelines which specify at least a metre of soil below and above the body and a minimum distance of 250m from streams, rivers and horeholes. Knackers used to and sell them to renderers who would process the carcasses for the by-products.

But the BSE crisis has undustry, depressing prices. Many husinesses have closed and those that survive are charging farmers around £50 to remove a dead animal.

The National Farmers Union and the Government's try, which is terribly damaging environment agencies in Scotland, England and Wales said they helieved this is leading to an increase in the number of carcasses being buried on farms.

But while diseased carcasses risk spreading infections to other livestock and people if

they are not properly buried, the agencies and the farmers' union say they have no knowledge of spokeswoman for the Scottish

On Today, Dr Cunningham convincing proof was forth- challenged the programme to produce harder evidence when he was presented with photographs of water-filled pits of bloated carcasses. "Photographs, you know, can be posed. If people would produce real evidence of a real problem we will take action."

He dismissed suggestions

that cattle suspected of having BSE were being buried on farmland, which would be illepick dead animals up for free, gal. "If there is a suspect BSE case or a real BSE case, farmers get several hundred pounds of compensation for every animal." He criticised the BBC for dermined the knackering in- raising concerns about livestock burial based only on claims made anonymously, about unidentified locations. "What is this supposed to do, except undermine public con-

> to farmers." Professor Carl Linklater. a former president of the British Veterinary Association, told the programme there was a risk

> fidence in the livestock indus-

of infections such as E.coli, salmonella and listeria spreading from animals to people.





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Mr of d 'A new contract that will lift people

By Glenda Cooper Social Affairs Correspondent

A "NEW CONTRACT" between the Government and people bound by duty oo both sides will be the key to welfare in 2020 to "lift people from poverty and dependence to dignity and independence", the minister for welfare reform said yesterday.

The poor, the old, the disabled and children are the main focus of the reform of the welfare state, with Frank Field saying that the principles of reform would be based oo the twin pillars of work and security: "work for those who can, security for those who cannot".

The Green Paper promises, although does not specify, sweeping reform of the much criticised Child Support Agency, warns of mandatory secood pensions and promises "Draconian" measures against housing benefit fraud.

The Department for Social Security warns there will be no "Big Bang" to create what Mr Field calls the Good Society but rather a gradual step by step over the oext two decades.

The Green Paper is the Third Way: oot the eod of the welfare state or defeoce of the status quo. It is a welfare state to meet modern needs, to support a decent and fair society founded oo social justice," the

It reiterates the Government's emphasis that the best Welfare: the facts

The social security budget is £83.6bn in 1998-9 - not far short of one-third of entire government spending.

One in five people live on less than half the average income today, compared to

Nearly four million children live in poverty.

Since 1979, the proportion of nouseholds with no one working has doubled to one in five.

One in five families headed

The poorest 20 per cent receive a lower share of social security benefits than they did in 1979.

The number of people claiming incapacity benefit has tripled to 1.75 million daimants over the past

The Government spends (30bn a year on the basic

form of welfare is work as "the surest route out of poverty". One in five working age households has no ooe in work, a figure the Government is determined to tackle. This will be dooe, the Green Paper says, by targeting key groups such as young people, ione parents and

the long-term unemployed. Mr Field announced yester-

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Man with a mission: Frank Field described yesterday's statement as marking 'a milestone in a journey that has so far lasted 30 years'

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day that the New Deal would be ing the universal benefits Dis-back on to benefit at the old rate extended so that there would be more help for lone pareots and the parmers of the unemployed

to get back to work. The disabled are particularly addressed in the Green Paper, after the receot controversy over disability benefits. Mr Field signalled that the Government remained committed to retain-

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ability Living Allowance and the if their health fails. Attendance Allowance.

He said there would be an amount of unpaid work disabled people oo benefit could do and there would also be an extenpeople can have a job yet come

There would also be legislation as soon as possible to esend to the 16-hour limit on the tablish a Disability Rights Commission to protect, enforce and promote the rights of disabled people. "Disabled people sioo from eight weeks to a year should get the support they of the time in which disabled oeed to lead a fulfilling life with dignity", said Mr Field. New laws

will aim to make the system fairthe same time the Government will crack down on Incapacity Benefit - the oumber of people claiming it has tripled over the past 20 years - to encourage people to return to work.

"The All Work Test for entry onto the benefit writes off all too many people," said Mr Field. "We want to move the current focus simply on what people cannot do to focus oo what with the right help they can effect of this will be to reduce significantly the numbers in future who come onto the benefit and thereby produce

increasing savings over time." Mr Field also raised the spectre of compulsory second pensions, saying there would be a Green Paper on pensions published later this year. While the commitment to the state pension emains the Government will get being to the moorest pen-species and schemes are in op-cration to look at ways of helping pensioners take up the income support they are entitled

not take up income support, losing on average £16 a week. Mr Field said that with an ageing populatioo more will need to be saved for pensions but the share borne by taxpayers More saving towards retirement

would be encouraged. People who have taken out insurance to pay off loans who then lose their job will no longer be penalised by losing benefit. The Child Support Agency will also face "fundamental refootn" - while costing £200m a year to run, it is only securing was intended to help children,"
Mr Field told the Commons. But ... it is clearly failing." A

root and branch" review of the SA is being carried out. The Green Paper also reitesated the Budget's commit-

will set out more clearly who is ment to expansion of the childentitled to disability benefits and care system with the network of childcare clubs to be expanded er and easier for claimants. At from next mooth, providing a further 20,000 places and a

Green Paper on childcare to be

published after Easter.

Fraud is also a priority for the Government's "Third Way" with Mr Field saying there would be "concerted actioo" to tackle benefit fraud. "Every pound in the pocket of a fraudster is a pound less in the pocket of someone in need," he said, adding that with housing benefit alone "almost a billion pounds do. So we need reform ... the is lost in frauds with suspected fraudsters having a 99 per cent chance of getting off scot-free."

One of the measures to be introduced would be thorough checks on National Insurance oumbers to stop people using false oumbers and new powers for the DSS to fine fraudsters.

The complexity of the welfare system will also be tackled - at this stage some people have to enter their details onto five different computer systems by ton deferrent agencies and Unit the Child Poverty Action state have the bug invoign as. Group on the Social Security many as 90 pages of questions. Select Co. 11 after. in their initial dealings with

The Government sets out thirty measures by which its performance can be judged, including a reduction in the proportion of working-age people living in workless housecould not go up otherwise the holds; it will reduce the number costs would be unsustainable. of children leaving school without qualifications, increase the number of disabled people able to work and extend second tier

> The oew contract is essentially aboot duty," said Mr Field. "Duties on the part of government are matched by duties for the individual.

pension provision.

"There are two no-go areas for this government," he added. *Our commitment to the vulocrable is not oegotiable. Our commitment to reform is not negotiable. What is negotiable is how we can achieve our

Dogged crusader against poverty

By Anthony Bevins Political Editor

THE sincerity of Frank Field's views on welfare reform is searingly obvious to anyone who has ever heard him describe the conditions of his Birkenhead constituency, where a culture of dependency is as endemic as its partner in crime; drugs culture,

It is not unusual to find obsessives in politics, but the minister for welfare reform yesterday reached a staging post on his crusade to offer radical solutions to his constituents' plight.

Mr Field has in the past spoken of boys in his constituency whose only ambition in life is to qualify for their own Giro cheques. Yesterday's paper leaves no doubt that those days are fast coming to a close.

The man and the crusade are indistinguishable, but the tenacity of Frank Field was superbly illustrated by his battles with the Mersey Militants, after they had infiltrated his constituency party in the 1980s and tried to dump him. He remains the Birkenhead MP to this day.

Born in 1942, Mr Field is a grammar school boy from a working-class background. His father was a labourer, and a Tory, which could explain why Frank became a Young Conservative before he went to Hull University. He was elected a Labour councillor in Hounslow, west London, in 1964, when he taught at Soothwark College for Further Education.

With all the honesty of a lowchurch Catholic, he said yesterday: "For me, today's statement marks a milestone in a journey that has so far lasted

"This Green Paper draws on my experience at the Low Pay

"But above all it draws on tening to my constitueous in Birkenhead, about the oeed for welfare reform. Those who rely on benefits for their everyday existence are the real experts here.".

That genuine humility grow from his experiences on Messeyside and while working for the poverty lobby between 1969-79. when he first entered Parliament at the time of Margaret Thatcher's accessioo to No 10.

It is a rare event in politics for a prime minister, Chancellor and a packed Commons to listen in rapt attention to a statement being made by a non-Cabinet minister.

But yesterday was a rare moment of social history. Mr Blair is determined that it will generate phenomenal change. And when Mr Field said he recognised the "particular honour", be

The presiding genius of 'People's William' still very much in mind

By Glesska Cooper

IT was an instant bestseller, with quenes stretching a mile to buy a copy. The austerely named Social Insurance and Allied Services: Report by Sir William Beveridge, declared war oo the "five giant evils" of Want, Disease, Ignorance, Squalor and folloness and its 1942 publication built the foundations of the welfare state.

Frank Field's Green Paper New Ambitions for our Country - a New Welfare Contract is unlikely to cause such a reaction. But the minister sent by Tony Blair to go to "think the unthinkable must surely have the "People's William" and his achievement m his mind.

The Beveridge report called for cradic-to-grave social security, a free health service and policies for full employment. Beveridge modestly remarked to his assistant, Harold Wilson: From now on, Beveridge is not the name of a man, it is the name of a way of life, not only for Britain, but for the whole croilised world."

Attiec's government brought in the "New Jerusalem", the



Beveridge: Declared war ол the 'five giant evils'

foundations of the welfare state the NHS (celebrating its 50th birthday this year), free secondary education for all, and social security, with its family allowances and pensions for all. But the system was designed for nuclear families with male breadwinners, underpinned by full employment - a world far away from today.

The welfare state was never set in stone and every government tinkered with it, determined to tame it.

Despite the changes of the 1980s - council house sell-offs, long-term care, reforms of health system - the welfare state did not wither away: the social security budget is now due to take a £83.6bo slice of public spending in 1998-9 - not far short of a third of cotire government spending. It rose by £43bn from 1979 to 1996.

Mr Field's Green Paper, oilled "one of the most important publications of this Parliament", is the third stage of a process of welfare reform which began with the New Deal - the drive to take the young and long-term unemployed off benefit and mto work, plus last week's Budget, with its clutch of initiatives aimed at tilting the balance away from the attractions of life on benefit and towards taking up work. The Government is determined to make sure that work pays.

No doubt Sir William would allow himself a small smile at the rhetoric used roday: after all, it was be who wrote more than 50 years ago: "Freedom from want cannot be forced on a democracy or given to a democracy. It must be won by them."

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out of dependence and into dignity' The view from the north

man Gareth Murchie 28 - arsector in Leeds, were typical

"It would never occur to me to fall back on to the welfare state if I know I'm able to work be much harder. somehow, " said Mr Murchie. "But there are people who are doomed from conception. They grow up believing at 16 they will ing benefits. It gets my goat, they should be out there looking for work instead of expecting the first thing I did when Matthew, our son, was born was set up a savings plan. We always intend to provide for ourselves."

a reduction in benefits might a very long time." lead to increased crime and begthey will have to find another way and it may not necessarily be work it could be crime," he said. "We don't want aggressive begging on the streets either" said his wife Helen, 28, "But people should never be

pletely. "I feel a sense of insecurity ... the welfare state seems to have always been there if you were ever really desperate. I country to provide for people who just cannot work because they may be disabled but we cannot afford either to allow the system to be abused."

Winebar owner Tony Gedge, 28, welcomed the ideas behind the Green paper, but said a cultural change would take time. "It can't be done overnight. Attitudes will have to change and else."

it could take a generation or two. The government most start "WE have been namnied for a in the schools showing young long time" said insurance sales- people how to look out for guahly a grandchild of the the social skills, the money Welfare State. The Murchies, sense or the commonsense to both young professionals work- get them through life. And if ing in the growing financial you are a child of a family where there is long-term unemployment and you know nothing different, it is going to

"These people should be targeted with special help ... But I'd like to know what the government intends to do with the sign on or go on to claim hous- money they will save from reduced benefits

"An increase in crime has also got to be a consideration, state to take care of them. The because if people won't work they will get their money somewhere else and that may be an easy answer for some. If it is going to work at all it will have to They were concerned that be phased in over I would think

Richard Watson, 31, who ging: "If the money isn't there promotes nightclubs in Leeds, said there was nothing better your own steam. "I like the idea very much but a lot rides on how the government sets about it. The dole has been a safety net for so many, giving a breathing space to help you get back on She believes state help your feet. You just can't sudshould not disappear com- denly take it away and expect people to cope. There are people who get used to it I know and won't get out bed for anything less but there is nothing think we are a wealthy enough better for your self-esteem and well-being than doing something for yourself, knowing your own work has won you something that you need or want. But the government has to have in place the kind of help people such as single parents need to get out there-working such as child care the opportunities for work before they do anything



The view from the inner city

AT THE Haggerston One O'clock Club in Hackney, east London, parents were unhappy at the demise of the cradle to grave welfare state.

The cluh is paid for by the council and most of the parents would be unable to attend if it were not free. Most are on benefits, many are lone parents.

Almost all the parents were opposed to any shift away from a comprehensive welfare state and did not think they could cope without it.

Tania Cole and Annesta Allen, both 26, are neighbours and godparents to each other's children. Ms Cole's daughter Tia is 21 months, Ms Allen's son Tyrell is nearly a year old. Both women are single parents and do not work. Ms Cole said: "We come into contact with the welfare state every day. I think most

people in Hackney rely on it." They live locally and both had their children at the nearby Queen Elizabeth Hospital. With such young children, Ms Cole and Ms Allen use the NHS a great deal and neither could imagine life without free health care. Ms Allen said: "Paying for a private doctor would be impossible, but you have to find a way when it's your kids. It would lead us into poverty, it's

SO WYOUR." Both women voted for the first time at the last election for Labour. Ms Allen said: "I had never voted before, but started to think about it, because I was having Tyrell, and I vot-

the good things they promised." Carl St George, 32, is a single parent to 10-month-old

ed Labour because I wanted all

Amy. He lives in nearby Hoxton and travels to the One O'clock Club so his daughter can mix with other children. Carl used to work as a sound engineer but had to give up his job and go on to benefit when Amy was born. He said: "I couldn't survive without single parent benefit. I have to get it. If it wasn't there I don't know what I would do."

Although Mr St George believes the welfare state needs to evolve, he is opposed to the introduction of a system such as that in the United States. "America is the worst place in the world," he said. "The people that are refused state welfare turn to crime and the gap between rich and poor, and even middle class and poor, is huge."

Karen Dorking, 30, and her sister Toni, 27, were at the centre with Karen's children Hannah, 3, and Georgia who is a year old. Jessica, Toni's ninemonth-old baby daughter sat on her knee. Both sisters stay at home with their children and claim income support. Karen Dorking said she would be angry at any change in the welfare state. She said: "How can they do this? How can they make you pay for health care when you don't have a joh?"

Toni Dorking was worned about the future of the state pension. "I don't earn anything, so I'm not fortunate enough to be able to put money away for later. How could I do ft?"



Tony Gedge (left), a winebar owner, and Richard Watson, a nightclub promoter, in Leeds. Mr Gedge welcorned the ideas behind the Green paper, but said a cultural change would take time. Photograph:

Ioan Russell/Guzeliar



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Jeremy Laurance at the British Psychological Society Conference reports on crime videos and the risk of mistaken identity, and a novel way to teach reading

Security cameras 'distorting justice'

SECURITY cameras, which have at Brighton that the findings Cherry Groce was shot dead by postreets, may be be of limited value in catching criminals and could lead to miscarriages of justice, psychologists have found.

A study of people's capacity to recognise faces captured on poorquality video footage have shown that the process is "remarkably error prone".

Even when high-quality images were used people failed to make correct identifications. In research at the University of Stirling, participants were given photos of a target face taken from a broadcastquality video recording and asked to match it with high-quality studio photos of ten people of the same cluded one of the target face with

a slightly different expression. Over 20 per cent of the participants failed to identify the target face correctly even when the picture was taken with the subject looking straight at the camera. This rose to 30 per cent when the head was

turned slightly to one side. Professor Vicki Bruce, of the Department of Psychology at the University, told the British Psych-

proliferated in banks, shops and city showed that people's capacity to lice when they raided her Brixton than had been thought.

> puter vision and we expected human camera image which showed a vision to be near perfect under these conditions. I have been researching face recognition for 25 years and I was surprised by the error rate."

The findings show that security cameras do not provide a fail-safe method of catching criminals and must be hacked by other methods. Two different images of a stranger may look oo more alike to some observers than two images of different hut similar people.

Professor Bruce said: "We have age and sex. The ten photos in- to he worried about the evidence of our own eyes. We have to be very cautious indeed that we don't think of a person means they are the same

> Although it was well-known that people's memory for faces was poor, it was not known that even with a high-quality picture in front of them people might fail to make a correct identification.

Professor Bruce cited the case

recognise faces was much poorer in 1988 looking for him in connection with a robbery at a building "We were doing experiments to society. Michael Groce was prosecompare human vision with comyoung black man. He was acquitted

when an expert for the defence raised doubts about the identification of the video image. Security-camera recordings were most useful when the person filmed was known to the observer. Professor Bruce said, adding: "We are not good at discriminating strangers' faces hut we are very good at

miliar to us." She added that the power of television programmes such as Crimewatch in solving cases depended on someone who knew the suspect a resemblance between two images recognising them and coming for-

doing so with people who are fa-

Computers were good at verifying that a person was who they said they were but there was a long way to go before they could identify which of 1,000 faces was the one before them.

"Computers can't outperform human vision. They are disrupted ological Society's annual conference of Michael Groce whose mother by lighting and angle just as we are."



Children solve the riddle of learning to read

TELLING jokes can help children its nose off; How do you make a bandread. Psychologists have found that using riddles for half an hour a day for three weeks can advance the reading age of seven- to nine-year-olds by up to 12 months.

The riddles used included: "Why did the night tip toe past the medicine cabinet? Because she didn't want to wake the sleeping pills; How do you stop a fish from smelling? Cut

stand? Take the chairs away.

Dr Nicola Yuill and colle from Sussex University told the British Psychological Society's Conference that riddles rest on a double meaning which requires sophisticated skills of comprehension.

By training children to understand and make up riddles, jokes and . stand and make up riddles, jokes and annal form of language play. Children ambigunus stories, their reading don't have to be taught to use them

years of primary school when progress tends to stall.

Dr Yaill said riddles could help children who had difficulty in making the transition from reading dles and they were given riddles to words to understanding sentences. "Children can tell riddles before they know how to read. They are a natural

ies, some children were given pencil and paper tasks and some taught Contraction of the

children

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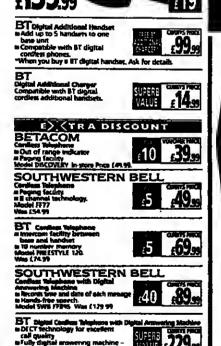
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"We got children to make up ridwhich they had to work out the answers. They would sit there and argue about language and meaning and that improved their understand-

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to 8-year-olds CHILDREN as young as eight would attract a more severe years old have been targeted by punishment than joy riding. Irish paramilitaries for pun-The worst beatings were reishment beatings that have left served for sexual offences. some severely injured. In one 30-month period amounted to a distinctive and from mid 1994 to 1996, 40 per unusual form of child abuse cent of all attacks were on which, as well as inflicting young people under 20. physical injuries, also left deep

Paramilitary

were either directly targeted or who were caught up as bystanders in attacks on others. One of the most serious incidents involved a 16-year-old Catholic boy who was strapped upside down to iron railings in what is known as a "crucifixion"

attack. His legs were beaten by baseball bats into which nails had been embedded. Andrew Silke, of University College Cork, who presented details of the cases to the conference yesterday, said the attack on the boy was one of the worst. "The surgeons who treated him said the damage

people up so they can get clean hits at the arms and legs." He said nine children under 12 had been injured in the period, including an eight-yearold who suffered broken bones. ist groups. The beatings were usually meted out as summary justice for offences including drug dealing, joy riding, petty thief

was horrific. The attackers tie

"It is organised. It is a system of justice. Paramilitaries feel under pressure to act as a police force. They are asked to do something about teenage gangs on the streets so they say to one is allowed out after

Punishments were graded to fit the crime; abusing a child

beatings given

Mr Silke said the attacks

There were 108 victims who psychological wounds. Four out of ten attacks by the IRA were on young people under 20 and the evidence

> One 16-year-old was strapped upside down to iron railings. His legs were beaten with baseball bats embedded with nails

suggested they inflicted more serious injuries than the loyal-

In Belfast, teenage gangs known as Hoods were rivals with the IRA. "The IRA is one underworld but there are other underworlds there. The IRA try to prevent them organising too much.

"They carry out punishment beatings and the Hoods carry out reprisal attacks. In one case the Hoods attacked a taxi firm, vandalising the vehicles, which was known to be paying protection money to the

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Good news at last for basking sharks, bluebells and voles

Environment Correspondent

BASKING sharks and bluebells were among 32 native British wildlife species granted extra legal protection by the Government yesterday as it widened the 1981 Wildlife and Countryside Act.

In three weeks it will also become an offence to sell or advertise for sale bluebells which have been taken from the wild - although cultivated plants are exempt.

Ministers have acted in response to a long running campaign against firms which dig up wild bulbs and sell them in nurseries. Bluebells are still common but declining and if the climate continues to warm theycould be replaced by plants better

suited to higher spring temperatures.
"We're delighted that the law has been changed in this way," said Jane Smart, director of the conservation charity Plantlife. The maximum fine for selling wild bluebells will be £1,000.

The basking shark, the world's second largest fish, gets full protection from being hunted, captured, sold or advertised, on pain of a fine







of up to £5,000. It appears off the and while no British fishermen take ment minister, announced that 11 which is rapidly declining due to prewest coast of Scotland and the Isle this harmless giant those from Nor- animal species, 12 plants, one lichen dation by mink introduced from of Man each summer, where it fil- way do. There is strong demand for and four fungi would now be given ters plankton through its vast gills. its fin, used in Oriental soups. Its UK numbers appear to be falling.

protection under the Act.

North America, and the stag bectle, one of Britain's largest insects.

it is named for its fearsome-looking jaws which resemble a stag's antiers. A further four species already given some protection by the Act receive more - a small estuarine fish

Photographs: Planet Earth

called the allis shad, the marsh fritillary butterfly, the large copper butterfly, and the pearl mussel.

A ban on collecting and selling the pearl mussel came into effect vesterday, without any warning period. This was because the Gov. ernment feared a last minute rush by collectors to beat any deadline. This mossel, found in freshwater streams, grows up to five inches long. lives up to 30 years, and has declined due to people searching for pearls.

But a moth called vipers bugloss was removed from the list of protected species because it is now almost certainly extinct in Britain.

Conservation groups welcomed the new protection but Simon Lyster, head of the Wildlife Trusts, said: The Act itself is in urgent need of a facelift." Plantlife said it had loopholes; for instance, damage or destruction to a protected plant is only illegal if it is intentional.

The green groups say there is an urgent need to beef up legislation protecting entire habitats rather than individual species, and to place more duties on landowners in charge of precious wildlife sites to

Children to learn ABC of morality

Education Editor

morality, community service ity are patchy. and political skills to end apa-

ing pupils socially and morally the welfare state." responsible behaviour, how to help their community and how fears that citizenship lessons to be effective in public life, ac- could be used to indoctrinate cording to the advisory group on children: last week Patrick To-Bernard Crick David Blun-

The curriculum

Socially and morally responsi-ble behaviour both in and beyond the dassroom. Knowledge and skills needed for participation in a democ-racy. Citizens' duties, respon-sibilities and rights. Value of. involvement in the community. Understanding of local and national democratic institutions, including parties, pres-sure groups and voluntary bodies. Awareness of global issues. How tax and spending work. Economic realities of

kett, Secretary of State for Ed-Crick because of concern about young people's alienation from

politics and society. Thirty-two per cent of 18-24year-olds did not vote at the last election, compared with 24 per cent in 1992. Prof Crick argues: change in the political culture have acquired should be as-

should be a national approach taught in blocks or form part of to citizenship education and an existing lessons.

Like evening gnats these adolescents find

To turn and circle in, and to unwind

The dark plump one makes his agility

A purple sphere, it's marvellous that he Can twist and spin and flick

His ankles over pavement-edge or grating

Beyond, his friend comes, styly hesitating In faded sawn-off jeans,

Bleached spiky hair, precisely ripened tan, Wide-striding sinewy grace: He wears his body almost like a man, Choosing new movements, new pace.

This is our final selection from Neil Powell's Selected Poems (Carcanet, £8.95). Neil Powell, who lives in Aldeburgh, Suffolk, has published critical works such as Carpenters of Light and The Language of Jazz as well as four collections for Car-

By Neil Powell

An island of late sunlight

Their tangled day to night.

Appear a conjuring trick:

Ends vindicate his means

DAILY POEM

Two Rollerskaters in Oakley Square

thy and cynicism among the worrying levels of apathy, igyoung were proposed by a Gov- norance and cynicism about ernment-appointed committee public life. These ... could well diminish the hoped for benefits Schools should devote 5 per both of constitutional reform cent of the timetable to teach—and of the changing nature of

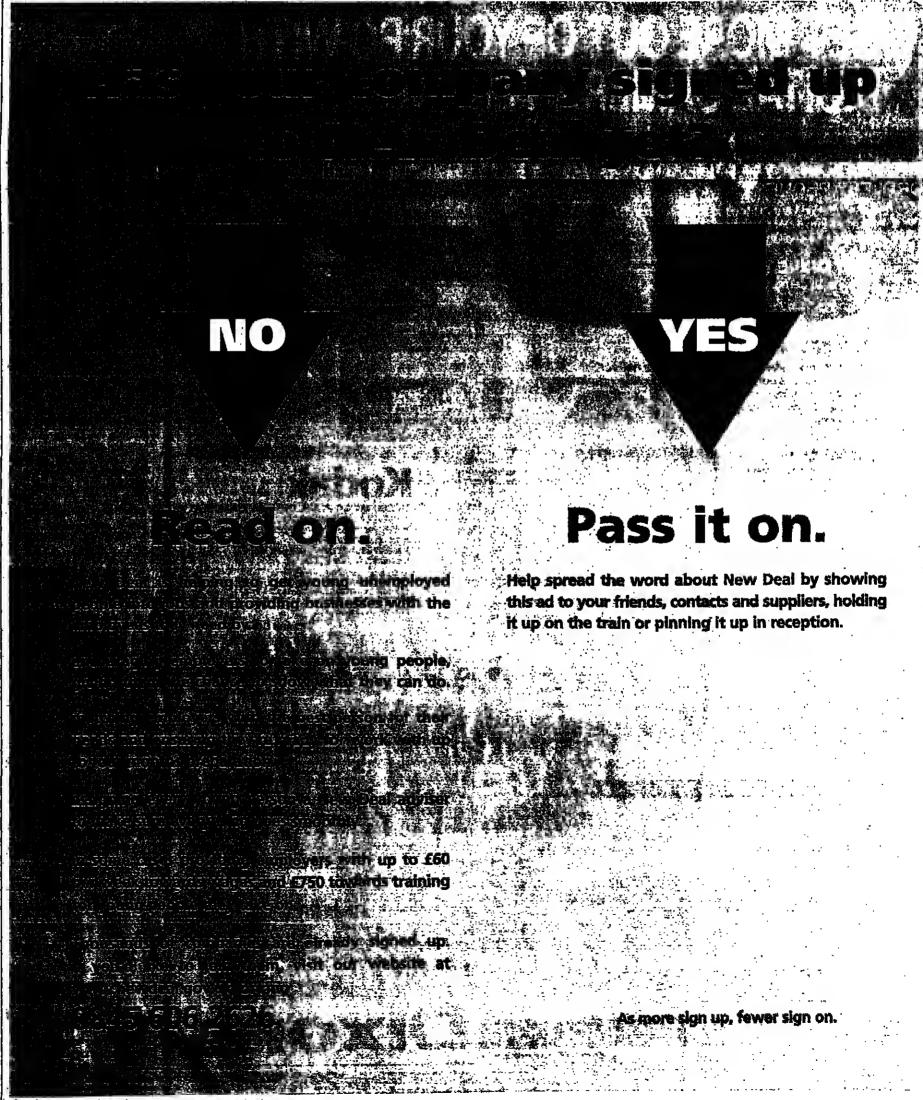
Prof Crick acknowledges masters' Conference of public schools, warned of the dangers of a future government introducing Nazi-style indoctrination, particularly if citizenship became a substitute for Chris-

Mr Blunkett welcomed the report. "The Government has always made it clear that any recommendations will respect the existing place of Religious

Education in the curriculum." · Pupils will be expected to learn through activities such as voluntary work and discussions on social and political issues as well as through formal lessons on topics such as the working of parliament, the group says.

It emphasises that citizenship ucation, appointed Professor is not just about teaching obedience to the law. Pupils should be able to distinguish between the law and justice and have the political skills to change laws peacefully. Schools should be allowed to decide how they teach citizenship but the values, skills "We aim at no less than a and knowledge which pupils sessed. Citizenship might oc-For the first time, there cupy a regular weekly lesson, be

ARE YOU THE BOSS? VE HAVE A WOR



attempt to restore a sense of common citizenship. At present, most schools claim to teach cit-COMPULSORY lessons in izenship but quantity and qual-The report says: "There are



French right falls apart after deal with the NF

By John Lichfield

A FEW of the President's men are trying to put Humpty Dumpty to- Jean-Pierre Soisson in Burgundy, has gether again. Others are trying to admitted the error of his ways and tear him into even smaller pieces. The rest believe the only solution is to lay a new egg.

from the far-right National Froot to hold on to their fiefdoms in regional

It seemed that the traditional toral alliance with Jean-Marie Le mains the potential beneficiary of the Pen's zenophobic party; the rest muddle. would re-group in the centre.

After seven days of plot changes, betrayals, unbetrayals, back-stabbings and un-stabbings, the situation eral" UDF, appear to be about to go

is more intricate than that, but, potentially, just as disastrous for the like the eponymous general io 1940,

One of the five rebel presidents, resigned. Another may do so today. Demonstrations against the others Bayrou of "Force Democrat", has is to lay a new egg.

A week ago, five local barons of the wing groups all over France. The NF, er of a new party of the centre-right defied orders which had played its cards with skill the centre-right. One of the smaller UDF factions.

One of the smaller UDF factions. wing groups all over France. The NF, er of a new party "of the centre and Right had snapped in two: part the momentum of the ultra-right par- water. The four remaining rebels. would go into semi-permanent elec- ty has been broken. But the NF re- all from the UDF, have until next

> To sum up. The two main politthe populist Gaullists and the "lib-

their separate ways. The Gaullists, are threatening to stand alone. But the UDF, a 20-year alliance of four centrist and rightist factions, has virtually ceased to exist. The leader of with the NF. Smashing the structures its most moderate faction, François of the centre-right has long been the have been called tomorrow by left- declared himself the standard-bear-

on Monday by trying to force centre-right rebels in Provence to elect Mr Hervé de Charette, has hinted it may Le Pen as the regional president (on throw in its lot with the new party. Mr Le Pen's insistence). Since then, ... The rest of the UDF is dead in the week to resign or be ejected from the federation. But the leader of its most right-wing faction, self-proical groupings on the centre-right, fessed French Thatcherite Alain Madelin, went along with this pun-

If Mr Bayrou succeeds in creating his new party, it is likely Mr Madelin will create a new party of the right, which would almost certainly be drawn into electorabiliance NF's ambition. Until last weekend, the softly-softly tactics of its number two, Bruno Mégret, offering support to the rebels without pre-conditions, worked like a charm.

Mr Le Pen's abrupt insistence on claiming a persocal reward in the presidency of Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur made the rebels look foolish. So did the results of polis in the départements last Sunday, which showed a sharp reaction by centreright voters against deals with the NF. The NationalFront can be pretty satisfied with its destructive week's work. But it could have done better

Minister embarrassed after her attack on Blair

the French employment minister speaking in the French parliament, and number two in the Jospin gov- had delighted the Right and irritat- phobic National Front. British Prime Minister and the leader of the French renophobic far-right in the same dismissive sentence. Not quite, writes John Lichfield.

ernment, did not mean to put the ed the left with his defence of new

right deputies who cheered Mr Blair

"THAT'S enough Tony Blair. That's night dehate in the French parlia- temper. She pointed out that they - ideologies ... If the [French] right had enough Le Pen, too." Martine Anbry, ment. A few hours earlier, Mr Blair, or their friends in the regions - had an ideology, we might have a little been making deals with the xeno-

> Labour. When the same centre- Blair and Mr Le Pen, she added: Among other things, he had said ide-"What were you applauding in Tony heckled Ms Aubrey's plans to put Blair? You were applauding phras- government was that policies should France on a 35-hour working week es in which you recognised a few of work. Ms Aubrey told colleagues that to help to create jobs, she lost her your own fantasies, like the death of she found his address "lamentable".

less of the far-right in this country."

Ms Auhry is said to have been the To explain her outburst about Mr most annoyed by the Blair speech. ology was dead; all that counted in



Paris vagrant held as 'killer of the East'

FRENCH POLICE yesterday arrested a 35-year-old vagrant thought to be the "killer of the East", a man who has raped and murdered seveo women in the eastern part of Paris in the last seven years. Police said the man, named as Guy Georges, had been positively identified by DNA tests as the killer of at least three of the young women.

Relief at his arrest will be judicial and police competence Guy Georges: DNA tests in dealing with the killings, which were not publicly declared to be serial murders until last year. It turns out that Georges had already served a prisoo sentence for rape and that police had a record of his DNA profile. He was a wellknown vagrant and small-time criminal, who was arrested two months ago for stealing a scoot-1995, police have held evidence of the DNA profile of the percrimes - two killings and an attempted killing. Checks against the DNA records of known sex-offenders in France were ordered only last November, the profile of the killer and Georges were finally matched at the be-

ginning of this week.



link him to three murders

blunder yesterday. The fact that the identity of the prime suspect was known was supposed to be trick him into allowing her to kept secret while police watched his usual haunts. The news leaked to a radio station yesterday morning, to the fury of the judge leading the investigation. who raged against the "acute" Detectives thought it would be er, and then released. Since anti-social behaviour" of both the station and the source of the a public hue and cry. The killer leak. In the event, two detectives seemed to disappear until two petrator of at least three of the picked up Georges without a more young women were raped struggle outside the Blanche and murdered in September metro station in Paris early yesterday afternoon.

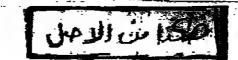
For 24 hours police had outside the home of his adop-

office. Georges was born in Angers, in western France. Police said he was of French west Indian origin, of oo fixed address or occupation. A description and composite picture of the presumed killer, issued last November, said that he was a North African.

Police have been operating oo the theory that one man was responsible for a series of murders in the Bastille and Republique areas of Paris for nearly three years. For months, they scoored the area at night in the company of a young woman, Elisabeth O, who was attacked by the man in her flat in June 1995 but managed to escape.

For two years, the presence of a serial killer in the capital, preying on young women living alone, was formally denied. easier to track the man without and November 1997. Police then confirmed that one man was thought to be responsible been patrolling in plain clothes for a series of seven murders going back to 1991. Relatives of tive parents, several squats in the newest victims furiously which he had been known to live criticised the failure of the po-There was almost another and his usual welfare payment lice to warn the public earlier.





Part NF

con Blair

t held as East'



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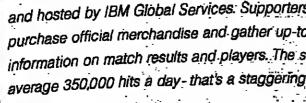
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Solutions for a small planet

Club Troika gives Russia more clout

THE TANGIBLE results were meagre in the extreme: a promise to improve transport links and increased co-operatioo betweeo universities: compromisingly tough 'Anglo-Sazon' but for anyone with a sense of history, the mere holding nf vesterday's first "troika" summit betweeo France, Germany and Russia was eoough in itself.

Singly, but above all in their alliances and their wars, the three countries whose leaders gathered at a government complex just outside Moscow have largely shaped the course of mainland Europe for the past 300 years. And the iotended message yesterday was unmistakable: what goes around, comes around,

For Mr Yeltsin the occasion symbolised that Russia belonged to Europe whatever the attitudes of Nato and the EU. For France, which courted Soviet Russia even at the depths of the Cold War - and to a lesser extent for Germany - it was annther way of saying that Europe should be an independent voice in world affairs: independent, that is,

And that is how the absence of Britain, cternally toro between Atlanticism and Europeanism, should else." If there was a chance of enbe read. While Tony Blair may ex- larging the group, that would be "no

tol Britain's "leading role" in Europe, he is considered by both the French and the Russians too close to the US - an ecocomic and ideological affinity most lately on view in the unline against Iraq.

Britain insists it has oot been snuhbed, claiming that relations with Russia are excellent (which, by and large, they are) and that hilateral summits and bodies like the G-3 are perfectly adequate means of ensuring they remain so. It has "oo

Britain insists it has not been snubbed and relations with

particular threesome into a four-

Russia are excellent'

Mr Yeltsin, for his part, tried to lay some of this century's less pleasant ghosts. Unlike some earlier links "was not iotended against anyone

problem." But the staying power of the troiks must be questioned. The oext summit is pencilled in for May 1999, in France.

By then however, given Chancelior Kohl's precarious political health, and Mr Yeltsin's equally precarious physical health, both Germany and Russia may have new

Bonn from the cotset was the most reluctant participant, while the Russian Foreign Ministry has had very mixed feelings about an initiative that Mr Yeltsin revealed out of the blue when he met Jacques Chirac in Strasbourg last year.

Mr Yeltsin seemed in reasonable shape yesterday, though he appeared to mistake the routine photo-call for a fullscale press conference, and deflected all questions about the replacement for the government he sacked this week. Maybe yes, maybe no," he replied plans," officials, say to turo this wheo asked if he would give the 35year-old acting Prime Minister, Sergei Kiriyenko, the joh oo a permaneut basis. Nor did the three leaders give any hint of their discussions over the crisis in Kosovo where, just involving the three countries, this one as with Iraq, France and Russia have misgivings over the tougher sanctions against Slobodan Milosevic urged by Washington.



Close encounters: President Boris Yeltsin (right) greeting President Jacques Chirac at the start for the first 'troika' summit between France, Germany and Russia. For Mr Yeltsin, it was confirmation that Russia belonged to Europe

-Inton br

Horid exclusives to

and Microsoft with

of these two to:

Ukraine's election hopefuls play on football fervour for votes

By Phil Reeves in Krev

SKULDUGGERY and politics are eternally eotwined, but the spectacle that will today be played out in Kiev, the capital of Ukraine, is one of the more flamboyant fibs told in the name of garnering votes.

in the capital's Palace of Culture for a two-hour gala concert to celebrate November. The festivities were postthe 70th anniversary of the country's pride and joy, the Dynamo Kiev football team. Top brass from the govemmeot will be there. So will the country's richest businessmen, its is considered one of the best teams most celebrated performers, and - in Europe - is about far more than of course - stars of the field, past and football. The club president, Hribory

prime time on one of the most popular national channels, Inter.

But, as the ex-Soviet republic looks fondly back at the long history of its favourite side, which was founded by a decree from Stalin, one detail is unlikely to receive much attention. It is not, technically speaking, One thousand guests will gather the 70th anniversary at all. That occasion slipped by almost unnoticed in pooed in a thinly disguised attempt to manipulate the outcome of the parliamentary elections, on Sunday.

These days Dynamo Kiev - which expected to tune in to watch the jam- oessman, is one of the top five on the

boree, which will be broadcast at list of candidates from the ceotrist United Social Democratic Party, So is his deputy, Viktor Medvedchuk. So is Leonid Kravchuk, the chairman of Dynamo's supervisory board and the country's first post-Soviet president. To the imitation of some of the fans, most of the players and coaches, oot previously known for their appetite for politics, have signed up

for party membership. The logic of the party - and the club's - ambitious leadership is sound ecough. This century alooe, Ukraine's history has seen a catalogue of tragedies, be it the famine created by Stalin, Nazi invasion, or the devastation of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster. The euphoria of inpresent. Millions of Ukrainians are Surkis, a multi-millionaire husi- dependence has faded, corroded by economic decline and stagnancy,

corruption, the tenacity and greed of - is hoping to cash in on this senti-

the old Soviet-style nomenclature. Yet the football team has given the nation something to cheer about, something which has been manifestly lacking under the leadership of President Leonid Kuchma. Its games routinely attract 100,000-strong crowds. Its coach, Valery Lobanovsky, has become the most popular man in the country, the subject of poems and songs. A scandal in 1995 when the club was banned from European competition for trying to bribe a Spanish referee with \$30,000 and two fur coats has faded from view. While politics is greeted with apathy and de-

hope and enthusiasm. The SDPU-and its candidate as ropean League of Champions.

ment. "We want to attract votes from the SDPU's ratings. people who have been disappointed by politics," said Oleksiy Mustafin, the party's spokesman, as he sat beneath a campaign poster printed in the Dynamo Kiev team colours. The party's advertisers have brazen-

players, and photographs showing the candidates in the Dynamo strip Last week, however, the SDPU which is expected to be among the top five parties - received an unpleasant shock. In a match watched by most of the 50 millioo population, spair, Dynamo Kiev still inspires Dynamo Kiev were beaten 4-1 by Juvectus in the quarterfinals of the Eu-

ly pumped the football theme, churn-

ing out calenders with pictures of the

shaved between 2 and 5 per cent off

Its rivals were contemptuous. "A party that stakes its future on football is not serious," said Vyacheslav Koval, spokesman for Rukh, the Ukrainian nationalist party. The players couldn't play properly, as they felt the burden of responsibility. They were frightened of the ball."

The party, however, is undeterred. "It showed that life is like polities. There is not a victory every day, but there will be other victories in the future," said Mr Mustafin. What angers him more is the manner in which the SDPU's tactics are now being ripped off by several of the oth-

er 30 organisations vying for ballots.

league, Karpaty - from the western city of Lviv - have declared their support for the Agrarians. Much to the annoyance of Dynamo Kiev's management, the club's logo suddenly began appearing oo propaganda put out by the pro-government People's Democratic Party.

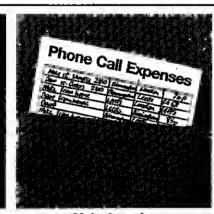
Whether this football fervour will do anyone much good is questionable. As the election oears, the signs are that people care less about dribbling skills than dollars. Andrei Doloshko, a printer aged 24, was waiting oo a corner to take his girlfriend to Dynamo's local fixture last night. He will not be voting oo Sunday. "I am a fan of the cub, and I like the managers. But why should The players from ooe of the bet- I believe that lot knows about any-



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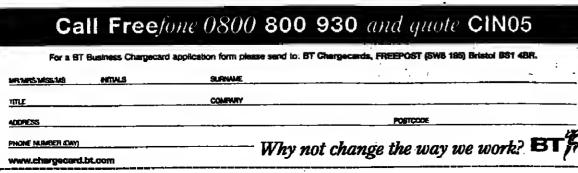
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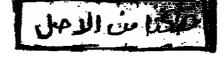
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Clinton brings hope to Cape Town ghetto

By Mary Braid m Cape Town

ONLY Hillary Clinton was expected at the Victoria Mxenge. Housing Project in Philippi, Mr Mofokeng is a member of one of Cape Town's saddest,

When Bill also stepped out of the shiny black limo, part of come to a place like this. He a fleet of US vehicles being flown all over the continent with the Clintons, the temperature

dwellers rose. "I can't tell you rored shades manned the wire scenes. "I am just so proud," he squatter camp of cardboard save. President Clinton said. South African parliament towards what this means to me," said an emotional Dennis Mofokeng, the crowd and swallowing hard. the 280-strong housing coopsprawling shack settlements erative named after an assassinated anti-apartheid activist.

must know how we struckled."

separating the Clintons from lo-said. cals. The housing project, still 31 standing a little apart from a building site, seemed too fragile for the 20-vehicle cavalcade crawling around a narrow

Soon Hillary and Bill, of the "To think the President would White House, Washington, were breathlessly admiriog

It is easy to be cynical about the US tour of the world's poorest continent. But yesterday the Clintons did manage to diet track, carefully avoiding the reach through the suffocating local people.

moved by the sight the Clintons Veliswa Mbeki's new inside had just whizzed by on the oth-American marksmen were flush loo. But Mr Molokeng er side of the road. South Africa crouched on the community seemed to find nothing incon- has no shortage of appalling of a few hundred ghetto hall roof-security men in min- gruous in the surrealest of bonsing, but Philippi, a vast

and corrugated iron, is among yesterday that Mxenge was a a triumphant moment for the the worst

. Mrs Climton first visited Mxenge last year on a solo trip to South Africa. She said yesterday that she was impressed by the security and the wire to touch scheme in which shack dwellers predominantly women - save It would be hard not to be for and build their own homes.

Mr Mosokeng still lives across the road. Everyone there, he says, dreams of moving to Mxenge. But most are unemployed and have no money to ton's historic speech to the Mandela and his companion

model that could be replicated throughout South Africa.

could be that easily solved. South Africa's support for Livy The project is innovative has low incomes and a shortage of affordable land - Mixenge is built on land donated by the Catholic ica's early bolstering of it spreading.

Presidential reigned again later in Mr Cin-

ANC-to have the first LiSpeniident to wish South Africa penist If only the housing crisis its achievements. US anger at and has were forgotten. Mr Clinton's hosts suffered reciprocal amnesia, forgotting Amer-

church - are major obstacles to apartheid during the Cold War. South Africa is the political hishpoint for the Clintons on this six-country tour, President

Graca Machel warmly embracing the Clintons yesterday - this is the image most likely to delight the public - particularly black Americans - back home. And Mr Clinton took care to connect the struggle of blacks in the US and South Africa, and said much rested in both countries on South Africa achieving its dream of a multiracial democracy. "America wants a strong South Africa," he said. "America needs a strong South

War crime suspect joins Serb regime

By Steve Crawshaw in Belgrade

IN SERBIA, just when you think things are as bad as they can get, they always get a little bit worse. Thus it has been this week. The Albanian majority Serb province of Kosovo is rumbling steadily towards full scale war, while the rest of the world wrings its hands in despair. Meanwhile, in Belgrade, the government has taken nn an even more nationalist tinge than at any time during the Balkan wars of the past seven years.

After months of wrangling about the formation of a new government, Slobodan Milosevic's Socialist Party (formerly the Communists) has jnined hands with the far-right Radical Party, whose leader, Vojislav Seselj, was widely linked with war crimes in former Yugoslavia.

Mr Seselj - a historian whose paramilitary forces earned notoriety in the wars in Croatia and Bosnia - is to be the new deputy prime minister. One dar Vucic, is the new information bia's policies to the rest of the world.

Mr Seselj's fierce ultraoationalism makes even Mr Milo-

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of Mr Sesel's leading aides, Alexan- Standard beavers: Serbs wave flags in the Kosovo capital Pristina yesterday during a pro-government rally

minister, responsible for selling Ser- sition of pitimate power. Huge op- formed a simple back flip, from sup- contrast, who likes to portray him- Mr Seselj- and he will no doubt fall position protests in winter 1996 boothy threatened that power. But Mr Milosevic hung on and successfully sevic seem moderate. The union is consolidated his position, Many the democratic opposition quickly fell a useful way for Mr Milosevic to bol. Serbs who became distillusioned with apart in constant squabiling. Its ster his own position. His title, fed- the policies of Mr Milosevic (strong eral president of Yugoslavia, is less on national rhetoric, less strong on returned to the nationalism be had losers this week. Mr Milosevic has

alist left to Mr Seselj on the far right.

After last year's demonstrations, important than his nuchanging po- the economic reality) have per- appeared to disavow. Mr Seselj, by in the past been sharply at odds with that the West does not seem ready

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newly strengthened Serbia and

porting Mr Milosevic on the nation- self as the outsider, offered simple out with him again. For the moment, prescriptions which promised a however, both sides seem content. The Serb prime minister, Mirko wealth for all. Mr Draskovic, who Marjanovic, has little power of his hoped to form part of the new gov- own, so that Mr Milosevic and Mr best known leader, Vuk Draskovic, emment, has been one of the main Seselj remain the two key players. Belgrade is pleased, meanwhile,

Photograph: David Rose

to pile oo undne pressure over Kosovo. The contact group on Yugoslavia made noises on Wednesday about possible sanctions if Scribia does not clean up its act. But a headline in the pro-government Serbian daily Polinika yesterday noted with satisfaction: "The contact group has not succumbed to a hard line.

Imelda to give away millions

THE widow of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos said her family has \$800m (£500m) in secret bank accounts abroad that she would give to poor Filipinos if she wins the May presidential election. Imelda Marcos said it does not include \$540m he had in Swiss banks. It was the first time Mrs Marcos had publicly admitted her family had more wealth than what has been discovered by the government since Marcos was oust-- AP. Manila

Fire kills 22

UP to 22 girls were feared dead after a fire roared through a boarding-school hostel north of the Kenyan coastal town of Mombasa. police said. -- Reuters, Nairobi

Creaking case

VIRGINIA Davis, a widow of 88, was charged with beating to death John Wimhrow, 50, who lived with her. Her lawyer said: "She couldn't open a car door without - AP, Franklin, Virginia

Court short

SUBHASINGHE Premasiri, a Sri Lankan charged with theft, threw a bag of faeces at policemen wheo asked to step into the witness-box. but it hit a fan and showered the

Everest diary

WE bope to publish Stepheo Goodwin's oext Everest Diary tomorrow.

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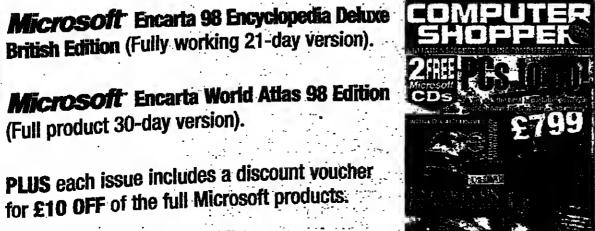
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'Not here' – the mantra that everyone is chanting in disbelief

NOT HERE. This is the mantra in Pearl, Mississippi, last October compared with 36 per cent in the being spoken in Jonesboro in the a 16-year-old boy first stabbed his country as a whole. One teacher from the violence of the big cities. aftermath of Tuesday's Westside mother and then went to his school carnage. This kind of horror belongs in the urban wastelands of Chicago. Los Angeles or New York City. But not in our town, not in rural and suburban America.

How, then, to explain the fact that the three fatal school rampages that have shaken this country in five months have all been in not-here

and opened fire on nine classmates, killing two. In Paducah, Kentucky, in December three students were a rallying cry for stronger gun laws. shot by a fellow pupil in a school corridor.

Hunting may offer one explanaare all in areas steeped in hunting as a family way of life. In the South, al-

the Westside school actually ex-

Increasingly, however, it is immost half of all households have guns and video shops have broken down it was no ship-born romance.

We do not yet know what films pressed the hope this week that Andrew Golden, 11, and Mitchell Tuesday's shooting should not become Johnson, 13, liked to watch. But we do know something of the viewing habits of Michael Carneal, the boy possible to ignore the media factor: accused in the Paducah killings. In children no longer need to live in police interviews, he made specific tion. Pearl, Paducah and Jonesboro gang-infested ghettos to become reference to a 1996 film starring the soaked in a culture of guns, violence Titanic blockbuster's Leonardo Diand casual death. Television, cinemas Caprio. Called The Basketball Diaries,

Cameal said that when he mowed down his peers as they formed a prayer circle before heading for their classes, he was re-enacting

moments from that film. The Basketball Diaries depicts a school athlete, played by DiCaprio, descending into a life of drugs and despair. In one specially grisly dream-like sequence, DiCaprio strides into his classroom, wields a rapid-fire rifle and guns down class members along with his teacher.

It has been famously suggested that the average American child witnesses 8,000 murders and a 100,000 acts of violence oo television before he or she reaches adolescence.

"Now you have the movies and cable and the Internet in rural areas," Brian Levin, a New Jersey criminologist observed yesterday in USA Today.

"Evil has a nice direct marketing pipeline to rural areas that it didn't have in decades past. Today you'd what do you get?

have a hard time telling where a kid is from."

It is shocking that two so young as Golden and Johnson could now stand accused of a massacre like that at Jooesboro. But consider what distractions were offered to them growing up in this scruffy patch of rural America: firing off guns with dad at the weekend and watching murder and mayhem on the video recorder. Combine the two influences and

Macho swaggerers with a gun fixation

THE TWO young boys accused of Tu esday's school shooting in Jnneshoro, Arkansas, Andrew Golden, 11, and Mitchell Johnson, 13, did not stand out. Sandy-haired Andrew likes to ride his hi ke around his house dressed in "camo" - ca mouflage clothing commonly worn by huntairs here. Mitchell sang in his local church che ir. Some have described both as polite, "Yes, sir, ves, ma'am" kids. Others, it is true, ha ve been less flattering.

Golden, who is small for his age arid somewhat hyper-active, was born locall y. Both his parents are postmasters in small towns close to Jonesboro. Johnson come s from a broken home. He moved to Jone sboro with his mother from a town in Mir inesota about two years ago.

One thing, however, that the two boy's did have in common was a familiarity with guns. It verged on a fixation. They had easy access to them - too easy, it turns out - and they played with them at weekends, shoot ing birds out of the trees. They liked to brag; about their skill in firing them.

And there was more: for months they had fantasised about proving to their friends that their trigger-fingers were where their mouths were. One day they would take their weapons to class at the Westside Middle School, in a suburb of Jooesboro, and they would shoot some folks. If not for the sheer fun of it, then to vent the anger that they both shared over romantic approaches that were not being reciprocated.

Golden, barely 4ft tall, does understand guns. Known by friends as Drew, he had recently been getting instruction from his father, Dennis. Mr Golden is known as an avid hunter and co-founded a gun club, the Jonesboro Practical Shooters Acquisition, where he would take his son for pop-up target practice on weekends.

Drew had recently even entered in a

Jonesboro reports by David Usborne

nationwide target competition, where competitors would post in their scores. He did not do especially well, however, and came 670th out of 719.

"I have seen Drew shoot," commented Terry Cider of the Jonesboro Practical Pistol Shooters Association, which holds meets to which the boy would sometimes come. "He wasn't very accurate and he wasn't very fast."

At Westside, both the boys would occasionally alarm friends with their macho swaggerings. They wore the outfits - Drew

Five shot dead

FIVE people, including three children, were found shot dead anWednesday night in Redfield, 150 miles south of Jonesboro. Police had gone to the home after relatives reported them missing. The victims were Misty Irwin, 20; her cousin Shelly Sorg, 24; Ms Sorg's three young children and family friend Samantha Rhodes, 12. There were no arrests. — AP, Redfield

demonstrate his loyalty to a local gang. He of a nationwide street gang, on dusty windows and on the sides of buses.

It was this behaviour that made other Jenna to play with him. He was too row- cess, they at last realised their fantasy.

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dy." Jenna once described Mitchell to her father as "pretty psychopathic".

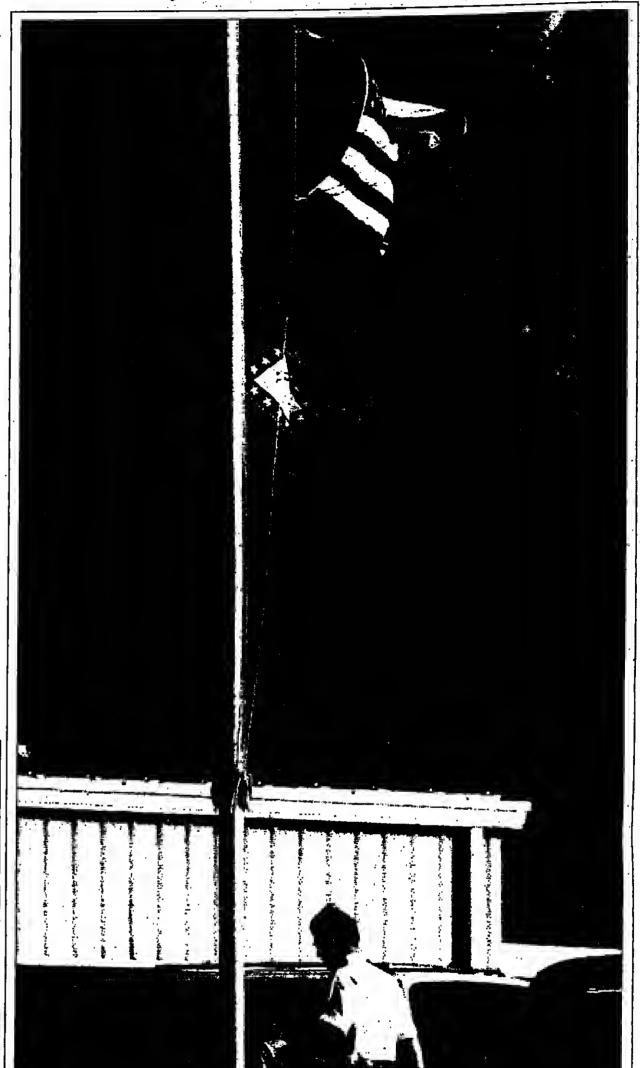
Another thing that Johnson liked to do was to stick his finger into the ribs of other kids and pretend it was a gun.

Some of what was going through Drew's imagination had been drawn to the school's attention. Three months ago, one of the boys at the school went to a school counsellor to report that Drew had told him that he intended to shoot some people at the school. In an eerie twist, it seems that Golden, who was summoned to see the counsellor, confided that he had just had a nightmare which had scared him sufficiently to drop his plan. He had dreamed that he had killed people at the school, but that at the end, he had also died.

Evidently, the dream did not haunt Golden for long. It seems that by Monday, if not days before, both boys knew exactly what they were going to do. Johnson was especially angered by the fact that he had been rejected by girls, and particularly by one, Candace Porter. She was one of those injured in the shooting. He told friends on Monday that he had "a lot of killing to do" and he suggested that they would know on Tuesday whether they were destined to live or die.

If Johnson offered the motive, Golden provided the hardware. His grandfather, Douglas Golden, a state wildlife official, has liked camo and Johnson had taken to wear- said in interviews that the 10 weapons used ing something red every day allegedly to by the boys were stolen from his home. A white van that the boys parked near the would spell out "Cripps Killers" - the name school and had meant to use as a getaway car was also from the Golden family.

On Tuesday morning, both boys feigned illness to get out of classes. Soon after breakchildren, and parents, steer clear of John-fast, Johnson left his house and went directly son. Lloyd Brooks, who has a daughter, to his friend's home. Golden was waiting with Jenna, at the school, said: "I didn't allow the guns and the van. Then, with tragic suc-



A man walks his child to school beneath a flag flying at half-mast at Westside middle school, Jonesboro yesterday, where four children and their teacher were shot dead on Tuesday

Quiet woman who became a heroine

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AS the survivors of Tuesday's Nine other students and another

schoolyard carnage in Jonesboro, Arkansas, returned in grief and shock to classes yesterday, the husband of a teacher who was shot dead while shielding one of her pupils pleaded. that the two boys accused of the saving our child. I want her famattack be treated as adults by the state courts.

Shannon Wright, 32, is being hailed as a heroine as details emerge of how she pushed aside Emma Pittman, a 12-year-old pupil at the Westside Middle School, to shield her from the bullets. Four pupils and Mrs Wright died in the ambush.

teacher were wounded.

Susan Pittman, Emma's mother, has asked that a posthumous award be given to Mrs Wright for her bravery: "I feel she needs a hero award for thankful we are because she didn't think of herself, she thought of the children."

While most grieving family members have shied away from comment, Mrs Wright's husband, Mitchell Wright, told the

bush, Andrew Golden, 11, and thinking, not a child. I think they Mitchell Johnson, 13, can only should spend the rest of their be tried as juveniles. This means that even if they are found guilty they will walk free as soon as they turn 18.

Golden and Johnson were charged on Wednesday with ily to know how grateful and murder and battery and are accused of setting off a fire alarm in the school and spraying .son, Zane. pupils and teachers with gunfire as they filed out.

They are children but it was pretty much premeditated," Mr Wright said. "As premeditated Jonesboro Sun of his dismay that as it was, and as thought out as the two boys accused in the am- it was, it was more like an adult

lives in prison and we all know that's not going to happen."

In Arkansas convicts guilty of this type of murder would usually face the death penalty. Mr Wright corrected reports that his wife had been pregnant.

The Wrights have a two-year-old Mr Wright added: "When yon lose your wife, I don't think it matters that it was a child did it or a grown up who did it. My little hoy ... it's not

going to matter to him who

ON WEDNESDAY IT WAS THEM,

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Time for bed sleepyhead

The clocks go forward at 2am on Sunday and losing another hour of rest isn't just inconvenient; it could prove fatal.

Annabel Ferriman explains why too many of us are already suffering

from sleep deprivation

FOUR years ago this month, three children were left fatherless, because a lorry driver fell asleep at the wheel of his truck and crashed headlong into oncoming traffic. Two motorists were killed, one of whom was a 35-year-old father-of-three from Preston, Lancashire.

That accident should be remembered by every driver on Monday morning as they tagger out of bed when the alarm goes off, because Monday is a day when we are all at special risk. The dangers increase even more this weekend: tomorrow night the clocks go forward and research from the US shows that in the days following the change to summer time, road accidents increase by six per cent. The connection between these two sets of risk? Sleep - or more accurately, a lack of it.

According to sleep expert Stanley Coren, a oeuro-psychologist from the University of British Columbia, Canada, who carried out the research, the reason is that most of us are already chronically sleep-deprived, because of our macho work culture and 24-hour society. Monday mornings are bad, when we have to rise early after two days of lie-ins. The loss of an extra hour because of the start of British summer time - with everyone getting up an hour earlier from Sunday onwards - is eoough to tip the scales to disaster.

Our whole attitude to sleep is wrong, according to Coren. "Sleep is simply not dispensable, regardless of the attempts in today's society to treat it as if it were unproductive 'downtime'. The desire to get more sleep is not a sign of laziness, nor does it represent a lack of ambition. The need privation five days out of seven. for sleep is real, he says.

Unfortunately, people think it is praiseworthy to manage on little sleep time only the physical and intellectual tasks considerably. Sleep experts in Britain are so concerned has to think of the admining tones in which they were given nine hours of about the dangers of sleepy drivers and the people talked of Mrs Thatcher's ability to . sleep a night. The experiment was stopped. by on four hours sleep a night to realise. however, when senior officers discovered the truth in that - and the way that society. that their men were being "mollycoddled" go clubbing for 24 hours a day. Once you could not do much research at 2am, because the library was shut, but today noth- . privation and drinking or smoking," says ing is ever closed, be it the Internet, the banking system or the supermarket.

According to Coren's book Sleep Thieves (The Free Press, £9.99), we would all perform our roles better if we got more sleep. He claims that we should we sleeping about nine hours a night, instead of the seven-and-a-half hours average that we now



Pillow talk Monday morning is one of the worst times for sleepiness, when we have to get up early to go to work after the luxury of a couple of days of lie-ins

have. Although we can catch up a little with a couple of extra hours on some nights, it is far healthier to have the same healthy amount every night than suffer sleep de-

A medical experiment on US Army recruits showed that they performed their issue of seven and a half hours' sleep.

"There are parallels between sleep de-Coren. "Today, the person who runs on little sleep is seen as being mentally tough, ambitious and admirable. Perhaps, as society recognises the harm that building up a sleep debt does to the sleep-deprived person, and to those around him or her, this situation will change.

"It may even come to pass that, some-

while sleepy will be viewed as being as reprehensible, dangerous or even criminally negligent as the persoo who drives or goes to work while drunk. If so, perhaps the rest of us can sleep a little bit more soundly,"

toll on society of sleep disorders that they are now planning to establish a national sleep foundation, a non-profit making charity, simto raise awareness of the problem.

Following a conference in Dublin last October, a committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Professor Neil Douglas, professor of respiratory and sleep medicine at Edinburgh University, to raise funds and organise the foundation's constitution and programme. In its first year, it plans to concentrate on the twin problems of sleep approca, the cessation of breathing for a few seconds or a minute or two, and narcolepsy.

day, the person who drives or goes to work in which people suddenly drop off to sleep several times a day.

"About 90 to 95 per cent of daytime sleepiness is the result of people suffering from treatable disorders. People often do oot realise that they have a disorder or do not know that there is effective treatment available," says Professor Douglas. He is particularly concerned about sleep apnoea, which he says affects about two per ceot of the middle-aged population.

"Sufferers wake hundreds of times a blocked. There is now an excellent treatment for it called Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP), in which patients wear a mask during the night and receive a gentle stream of air through the nose to keep the airways open. It has good results but some people do not know that they have the condition and others do oot realise that it is treatable."

The committee is appealing for funds to drug companies, manufacturers of

breathing machinery and other multinational companies interested in sleep disorders. As well as carrying out research, it plans to work with a public relations company to educate GPs, politicians and the public about the disorders.

The importance of tackling the problem is illustrated by recent research quantifying the proportion of road deaths result from drowsiness at the wheel. Professor Jim Hom and Dr Louise Reyner, from the University of Loughborough, 20 per cent of serious accidents on monotonous roads in the UK, especially on motorways. Typically, these accidents involve running off the road or into the back of another vehicle, and are worsened by the high-speed impact, due to lack of braking beforehand.

The problem worries not just sleep experts but accident organisations, too. Dominic Connell, spokesman for the AA, says: "We know that fatigue is a mnnumental factor in accideots. We would advise our members that it might take time to adjust [after the clocks change]."

The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accideots (RoSPA) has launched a new code of practice for organisations with company cars. A recent RoSPA survey shows that a third of company car and van drivers said that their company did not worry about the long bours they spent behind the wheel "as long as the job got done". The organisation is also running a try for fleet and transport managers and health and safety advisers on "managing risk oo the road".

With added awareness, changing to summer time should become less dangerous in future. Perhaps Mooday morning won't be so hazardous after all. Certainly the research provides an excellent justification for going to bed exactly when one feels like it, without any fear of being labelled a wimp.

Cross words can get you too down

Why is the 'Daily Telegraph' ditching setters and computerising its puzzles? asks Louise Levene, crossword editor of 'The Independent'

planadon could there be for the editor means that the clues themselves can of a popular and widely syndicated crossword puzzle to start monkeying about with it?

The world of crosswords has been buzzing for some mooths now with the news that the Daily Telegraph's Val Gilbert is proposing to save money and improve quality by computerising the crossword puzzles. She plans to abandon the traditional organic methods of production, whereby a and phrases and theo makes up clues for them.

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gradient Are

Instead, the Telegraph's puzzles will be factory farmed. Ms Gilbert's infernal machine will fill in the grids and she will then supply clues from a database of second-hand Daily Telegraph clues. Any holes will be filled by former Telegraph setters on a piecework basis, at the meagre rate of £2 or £3 a clue - a hit like writing gags for Max Miller but infinitely less satisfying. Some setters, insulted that their creative endeavours should be reduced to the work of a jobbing cluer, have simply refused to co-operate.

The traditional crossword setter crafts his complete puzzle with infinite care, ensuring a healthy, balanced diet of anagrams, hiddeo words, homophones and so oo. But apart from the sheer variety guaranteed by strange part about all this is that Ms

MAD? Or just stupid? What other ex- the human element, this method be interrelated.

Even an ordinary daily puzzle in the Independent can have a ruling motif Recent ones have included a puzzle packed with references to trees and a special Welsh place names crossword for St David's Day. To imagine that such whimsy and ingenuity can be replaced with a database shows oo appreciation for the setter's art. It's like asking 14 poets looe genius fills up a grid with words to write a sonnet. In the home-made puzzle not only are the cines all of a piece, they are also coloured by the personality of the setters, each of

whom has a recognisable style. Even at the Times and Telegraph (where setters have no by-lines), you know instantly if you're dealing with the musician or the cricketer or the Scot. Most broadsheet crossword setters are clueing full-time, but their former careers range from university lecturing to managing a blanket factory. Readers take enormous pleasure in spotting an old friend. To reduce that affectionate exchange to a soulless list is to treat both setters and

solvers with contempt. Computerised crossword setting is the kind of cost-cutting absurdity one might well expect from a budgetcrazed newcomer to the job, but the



A very British pastime: Colin Dexter, creator of crossword-loving Inspector Morse, settles down with a pint and a puzzle

derer protested that such a parlour

journal. But tuday, the crossword

Gilbert has been editing the Tele- thirties. When the Times first began graph crossword for 21 years now. She, running them, readers of The Thunof all people, should know that the creadons passing through her hands are game should be included in their more than a mere list of clues.

Crosswords have only been pub- seems a quintessential part of a parlished in British newspapers since the ocular type of British life - as much

as a warm pint of beer, for instance. How right it seemed that Inspector Morse should spend his time solving puns and anagrams as he supped his ale on a summer's evening. His creator, Colin Dexter, who has compiled crosswords himself, thought it entirely appropriate that the Oxford policeman should do them - although real-life prisoners are ofteo some of the keenest solvers. People really do huy their newspapers for the crossword on the back of it. The owner and editor of the Telegraph must know this. If they didn't

know it before they soon will when the green ink begins to flow from clucless of Tunbridge Wells. Any solver hates to find alterations in their daily ration of favourite puzzles. The Telegraph crossword is a pleasant enough pastime, and it's perfect for people who don't like a puzzle they have to chew, but as any Independent addict will tell you, it is possible to complete the whole thing in your head without the need for a pen.

Ms Gilbert has been dogged in her defence of the computerised crossword (she plans to offer prizes to readers who can spot the difference), but the reaction to the oews may well force her to abandon her experimeot and accept the goldeo rule of crossword editing: if it ain't broke;



Peeking behind Asia's bamboo curtain





Visions of Vietnam: Abandoning his commercial work for the likes of BP and Volvo, Desmond Burdon roamed the back streets of Vietnamese towns. In doing so he captured a nation grasping for capitalist dreams. A small boy (above) roaming in a back street unashamedly plays up to his camera, while the 93-year-old grandmother (left), who was still working as a cook, poss ed a vitality that stunned him. Below, Rob Judges caught this worker taking a break

Photographs: Desmond Burdon/Rob judges



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IT WAS in a back street restaurant in Hoi An, deep in the heart of Vietnam, that Desmond Burdon spotted her: a wizened old woman, years past the age when the West would have pensioned her off, stooping over the cooking pots, writes Michael Greenwood.

"I was 30km south of Danang, and she was a 93-year-old grandmother working in a little fam-ily restaurant. Having just cooked my lunch she got on the back of a little moped with her granddaughter and sped off, it made the Queen Mother look tike nothing." The resulting picture is one

of several by Burdon which feature in an exhibition of images of Asia to coincide with the Asia. summit. The 30 exhibitors, including Peter Arnold, Martin Westlake, Peter Hince and Jonathan Brade, celebrate Asian culture as well as architecture, streetlife and landscape. All of them have travelled effensively in the region from Malaysia and Singapore to The Phillipines and Thailand and India. Destiond Burdon's work cantures the humour and contradictions of the Asian people with intense portraits. The vibrant colour of clothing and skin illustrate the humidity

and texture of an eclectic land. Burdon, who works in advertising, says that a trip to Vietnam was a chance to get away from the commercialism of his work. "It stopped me in my tracks, it is so picturesque, but you soon realise that out there they would sell you their grandmother, they have

been exposed to television and they want it. We were in a hotel in Hanoi when this tiny weedy man came in dressed in a tacky shell suit and wearing a diamond watch and enormous tortoiseshell glasses. It turned out he had gone from planting rice in fields to winning the contract to

A Zoltán Franki put plastic toys inside chocolate eggs. He had made his fortune, that is what they want and it is happening. At the same time there is poverly, you see these massive hotels being put up between shacks where people are starving. Those problems are inevitable but it is their time - we have had ours."

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ASIA opens at The Gallery of The Association of Photographers in Domingo Street, London, on 31 March and runs until 11 April. Admission is free. 0171 608 1445.



JOHN LYTTLE

I SUSPECT the main reason many heterosexuals, liberal and teeny-tinyminded alike, recoil at the idea (and ideal) of Coming Out - so hectoring, so blatant, so blah, blah, blah - is that it returns the straight folks' problems with homosexuality right back to them. Instead of the previously timid fag having to tip-toe around a certain subject, lie about what he did at the weekend and monitor every word from his mouth so each reference to a partner is non-gender specific (that is, if he doesn't own an imaginary girlfriend), it's the breeding classes who must now mind their P's and Q's and learn to adapt. Or not.

Coming Out is no guarantee of acceptance, though it's a fairly safe bet for increased peace of mind. Either way, straights are obliged to experience just the merest measure of the psychic pressure - 800 pounds to the square inch - that the closeted dai-

If you want us Out, you have to let us in

ly endure. Here, have some paragoid self-consciousness on us. This can cause resentment, but it's only fair. Well, Coming Out is a straight in-

This is why. Homosexuality is nnly an issue because heterosexuality deems it so. If heterosexuality were to budge up, make a little room and stop creating such a big fuss about what boys do with boys then gays wouldn't have to either lark in the shadows - boring - or make an sin nouncement/statement/camping of their sexuality - boring and ex-hausting, though not, as boring and exhausting as permanent presence. If heterosexuals bridle at Coming Oak, they have no one but theinselve to they have no one but the institute as blame. And if they want Coming Odr. to go away, it's easily done. Taken share those lovely rights and and leges. I personally promise that this Love That Dare Not Speak is Name will shot up the second the playing." field is level.

All patently obvious. As obvious as heterosexuals making noises about their sexuality almost every time they speak, no wornes: the hubby, the wife and the kids crop up constantly and no one snorts about - such a prissy, faux objection - turning the private life into a public spectacle. Obvious, except if isn't. Coming Out

- being open, being honest - apparently requires continuous exposi-

How else to explain the following: This House Believes That Staying In is The New Coming Out." This is the topic the Cambridge Union Socicty addresses on May 7, according to the fax that arrived on my desk yesterday. The fax is, of course, deliberately worded for (heated) debate, and worth quoting : "Faced with an ever-increasing acceptance of homesexuality, is it really necessary to Come Out? What are the benefits of making such a public and seemmay irreversable declaration? Is it still necessary to define your self-identi-Ty by your sexual identity? Recent mediscoverage has focused upon those with have decided to 'Come Out' in the said we are left wondering whether manufacturing of a 'gay courmunity is still a relevant and desirable prerequisite for life as a

Every bald assertion and brassy assumption is a bloom one longs to linger over, but let's hurry along: "Is it still necessary to define your self-identity by your sexual identity?" What a tidy reversal! As noted, it's beterosexnals who mostly define ho-mosexnal self-identity as sexual, only to experience videase and/or disgust

with the imposed. Fags know homosexuality is about more than what goes where, even as they leapfrog each available trick. Coming Out is at least partially meant to act as a corrective: if you know a known fag you may observe that his life is as comnlete or incomplete - as dully human as your own. The personal is political, etc.

That's certainly one "benefit of making such a public declaration", though we must now ask what public is and what a declaration amounts to. Is Coming Out to your family public? To your friends? Or does only the workplace count? Do you decide to be out in some areas of your life, in in others (Mummy has a bad heart, Daddy is doddery)? Must you be Out to everyone or to a chosen few? Is a "declaration" wearing short, checked leather chaps to the office party or casually mentioning you're mad about a boy at the water cooler? Not Coming Out, but Leaking Out, which is what it really should be titled as that's how the process usually happens. What's often forgotten is that Coming Out is not just a choice, but multiple-choice. It is seldom the magical, total, overnight transformation the Cambridge Union overstates and some gay headbangers yet demand: here fear and fundamen-

talism make strange bed fellows, and an impossible challenge - Come Out and watch troubles melt away. Actually, Coming Out finishes one thing and kickstarts another: it's a step, not a conclusion. Is Coming Out easier these days? Depends on circonstance, no matter chatter about "ever-increasing acceptance." CO may be less of a big deal, but that

doesn't render CO "unnecessary". Whatever happens, homosexuality will never be the standard. Coming Out of some sort will always be required. Perhaps one day it will be considered as natural as, say, puberty; however, that time is far away. Until then it's up to Cambridge I guess, obliged to patently explain (again) that Coming Out on a Friday doesn't mean that the Saturday post will harbour an invitation to join the Community - whatever that is - and that Coming Out in reverse is cool. So sometimes closets have revolving

Gays are generally better at that sort of contradiction/detour/ phase/lark than heterosexuals, who still have to grasp the fact that gays can set the moral lesson (or practise moral blackmail) but that they, not we, are the only ones who can make This House Believe That Staying In. is The New Coming Out.

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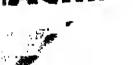


















House in Charlotte Square, Edinburgh. He also designed the trust's necklace of information centres, fashioning an identifiable architecture that seemed both modern and yet Scottish. Many of his projects (Monteviot and Dupplin, for example) were for his own relatives, at a time when country houses "Octagon Scott" were being retrieved from Photograph: RCHMS wartime misuse by the military, or from decades of neglect. He worked on Mellerstain, Abbots-

SCHOMBERG SCOTT Was the dominant historic build-

ings architect in Scotland in the 1960s and 1970s and, as con-

sultant to the National Trust for

Scotland, was responsible for

the restoration of the Georgian

ford (which was sorely trauch-

led with dry rot), Drumlanrig,

Monzie, Gordon Castle, Win-

ton, Hamilton House, Lennox-

love, Pitmuies, Elshieshields,

Stobo, Dalkeith Palace, Cleish,

Pilmuir and Balmuto. He was

also commissioned to design the

largest post-war country house

in Scotland, Dupplin in Perth-

shire (1970-76), along with

Monteviot (1961-63), Memb-

nochy Lodge, Edzell (1973), and

a competition-winning church

Walter Schomberg Hepburn

at Barrow in Furness.

Schomberg Scott

Radley, and studied architecture. at the Edinburgh College of Art. In the early 1930s he entered the office of the craft architect Reginald Fairlie (whom he possibly met when Fairlie was creating the new lodges at Floors) before moving to the office of Sir Edward Maufe in London.

During the Second World War he rose to Captain in the Royal Engineers, serving among other places in India, where he designed a missionary chapel at Simla. A shy man, he proposed to Deborah Howard, later his wife, by telegram from Suez. In 1946 he joined the Edin-

burgh architects Orphoot Whit-Scott (he dropped the Walter in ing and Lindsay, later becoming the 1950s) was born in 1910; his a partner in Ian G. Lindsay & father was the Chamberlain of Partners, who were specialists the Duke of Roxburghe at in the conservation of big hous-Floors. He was educated at es, heirs to the tradition of Ed- Culzean, Falkland, the speedy

- particularly with things con- lotte Square. tractual - ied to the partnership's being dissolved in 1961.

Scott's office in Forres Street three years, he was bizarrely joined as virtual partner by the ex-footballer Ron McKinven, who fed his parrot grapes in the office, and who added barber shops and night-clubs decorated with rubber hoses to the practice's portfolio of country houses. In 1974 Schomberg was joined by Anthony Dixon as partner, who strengthened the

From 1965 Schomberg was retained by the National Trust for Scotland. He had sat on their Architectural and Artistic Advisory Panel since 1953, and gone on to be Adviser on Architecture and Furnishings, Architect and Design Consultant, and finally Consultant for Architecture, Design and Furnishing. His work for the NTS eventually took up threequarters of his time.

practical side of the partnership.

He was repeatedly requested to join their staff, but was unwilling to relinquish his practice. Major trust projects included

iousness and Scott's impatience the Georgian House in Char-

He designed plain, harled Scots-style information centres at Falkland, Inverewe, Glenremained small, although he appears also to have acted as died a Scots song with an ode partner in Lorimer and to the "Lats of Killiecrankie") Matthew, the inherited practice and an octagonal one at Culloof Sir Robert Lorimer. For den-after which he remarked that he would like to be remembered as "Octagon Scott". In 1970, he relinquished his part-time post and remained architect only for specific projects thereafter.

Schomberg was a small-scale

designer, much more at bome with detail and craftwork than the grand conception -- as may be interred from the rather blank and unmodulated façades of Dupplin and Monteviot. From Fairlie he had imbibed a feeling for ironwork, exemplified in stair balusters at Dupplin, and the gates at Pitmedden and Malleny. He made curtains for trust property on his kitchen table, tapestry for the chairs at Leith Hall and at Northfield, his 16th-century villa, and furniture and wallpaper for Monteviot. Absorbed by drawing, which be did brilliantly and speedily, he was also an excellent photographer with an informed eye.

As oblivious to his own appearance as to his commensurately shambolic office, this

wardign craft architecture of Sir rebuilding of the Queen Anne why short-fused architect liked Robert Lorimer. But the disson- wing at Crathes in Aberdeen- leaping up ladders in preference ance between Lindsay's fastid- shire after a ferocious fire, and to the bureaucratic and contractual side of architecture. He eventually retired in 1979.

The National Trust for Scotland is currently seeking an old file in their archives entitled "Odd Odes", consisting of subversive ditties decorated with tiny drawings which indicate how Scott mastered NTS execntive meetings. One began: A tumble-down house with a secondrate garden Is just what the trust needs on Mull.

He had a wide circle of friends, who particularly prized a car trip with him for his conversation, vivid humour, and arcane if not outrageous knowledge of aristocratic preferences and peculiarities. A "social" at Northfield might easily end with dancing in the garden. His manner bore as easily with the secretity of the trust's Council as with the Prestonnans miners whom he persuaded to assist him in the rescue of the garden at Northfield.

His drawings and photographs are beld at the National Monuments Record of Scotland to intrigue future

Charles McKean

Walter Schomberg Hepburn Scott, architect: born 14 September 1910; married Deborah Howard (died 1992; one son, and one son de-



ceased; ded Leith II February 1998. Elshieshields in Durnfriesshire, restored and photographed by Scott

Ioan Freeman

"I AM tremendously thrilled recognised interactions in na- bank job and her mother des- equivalent of O Level) with 7 about the award of the Ruther- ture. These are the weak inter- perately struggled to earn mon- As and 1 B: surprisingly the B ford Medal. It is a great bonour action, the gravitational, the ey by running a kindergarten, was in chemistry. In the Leav-- the first time a woman has won electromagnetic, and the strong the award." So wrote Joan or nuclear. The weak interaction. Freeman to the Principal of plays a secondary but vital role Newsham College in 1976. The in a nuclear reactor. award, made every two years by On meeting Joan Freeman, the Institute of Physics, put people were surprised to find she was a somewhat timid perher into the company of outstanding physicists of her time. son. She herself wrote, in her Previous recipients were Probook A Passion for Physics fessors Niels and Aage Bohr, Sir (1991), of her shyness and her

John Cockeroft, Lord Flowers, gratitude to colleagues who bolstered her self-confidence. Sir Rudolf Peierls and Sir Decys She also wrote that to succeed It was a joint award to Free, in in spirince, a memory needed man and Professor Roger Bin- determination, enthusiasm and Stoyle, for their work on independence of mind. She beta-radioactivity of complex showed all of these. nuclei. She was the leader of the Harwell Tandem Accelerator She was born in 1918 in Perth, schoolgid among classes of en-Group carrying out the exper- Western Australia, the only imental work, while he and his child of a musically talented

students at Sussex University mother, frustrated by unex- The Principal insisted she be acpursued the theoretical studies. pected poverty resulting from Their collaboration on the collapse in the 1900s of the great basic weak interaction theory hegan in the 1960s. Beta- an accountant and given to radioactivity, the spontaneous flares of rage. They moved to emission of negative or positive Sydney in 1922. Family problems electrons from unstable nuclei, were exacerbated by the 1929 is a manifestation of the four crash, when her father lost his

Joan's fees at Sydney Church of England Girls' School, recognised to be the best available and where Joan was an extremely hard-working pupil, regularly winning prizes for being the top of her class. Maths and science fascinated her. The school

Even Sceggs - as it was locally known could not meet loan Preculate and interest in chemistry and physics. For two years she managed to join Her early life was difficult. Technical College - a lone, tiny companied by an adult on the journey. Her mother came,

her by passing her Intermediate

She was antious to maintain ing Certificate Examination she secured a scholarship, a medal, and a prize. This assured her a place at the University of Sydney in 1936. She also faced a difficult time, for the strains of marriage proved too much for her father, who left the family. Joan and ber mother struggled on together.

evening classes at the Sydney gincering apprentices in a rather rough part of this city.

dragging her students' exercise books for marking during the two-bour sessions. Joan repaid Sceggs' faith in

recognised her ability and commitment, and remitted her fees.

If her experience at the Sydoey Technical College had not



proved the point, she was in no complete her MSc in her spare town, was welcoming, hut detralia - a decision which the was Phyllis Nichol - only the physics at Sydney University, She strongly advised her pupil to for employment were slightly brighter. Joan Freeman showed the required independence of mind: she stuck with physics.

She was the only woman in the second year - a point emphasised by the space officially designated hetween her and the next man. One unfortunate who sat next to her was informed by the lecturer, "Officially, you are not here."

was awarded a Commonwealth Research Scholarship and start- cil for Scientific and Industrial later, in June 1941, she was accepted as a Research Officer at the Radiophysics Laboratory of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. Accept-

was not an easy road for a the somewhat frenzied activity woman. One of her lecturers of radar research, whose results were so urgently needed by the second woman to graduate in Allied armed forces in the Second World War. She was one of only two women so employed; take chemistry, where prospects and was grateful for the practical training she had undergone in her Honours year - in glass hlowing, metalwork, soldering, mechanical design and drawing. The war ended unexpected-

ly in August 1945; and Freeman undertook, with some misgivings, her first peacetime research project, concerning the supervisor never arrived. behaviour of low-pressure gas nior Studentship by the Couned on her MSc. A few months Research enabling her to go to Cambridge University in England and read for her PhD.

The experience filled her now with cuphoria, now with de-

general ambience contrasted sharply with more casual Australian ways and the bitterly cold wet weather was equally shockoverwhelming number of research students for the teachadvised to join the Nuclear Physics Department, and spent six frustrating months trying to find a project. None had been assigned to her, and her named

At one stage she nearly discharges at microwave fre- hroke down; but then showed Meanwhile, Jelley took early requencies. In 1946, soon after a remarkable ability to find a tirement. Together they em-She worked with her habit- achieving satisfactory results for niche for herself. With the use barked on a happy period of ual concentration, achieved a this project and, to her complete of considerable tact and diplot travel and sailing, until he was BSc with a double first in 1940, surprise, she was awarded a Se-macy she succeeded in teaming smitten by illness in 1995, and short-range alpha particles. This proved the turning

point in her life and career. In 1951 she moved to Harwell as Joun Male Freeman, physicist: bom spair. Newnham College, cho- decided, after some worries of 1918, married 1958 John Jelley (died

doubt at university that physics time, Freeman plunged into fensively formal in the mascu- Australian authorities met with line culture of Cambridge. The generosity and understanding. Her mother joined bet in Abingdon soon after that. She met John Jelley at Har-

well in 1948, and married him ing. The Cavendish Laborato- in 1958. She retired in 1978 ry was in turnoil with an somewhat unwillingly, as 60 was the retirement age for women and 65 for men. Still she ing staff available. She was had the consolation of the Rutherford Medal, a Fellowship of the Institute of Physics, a Fellowship of the American Physical Society and an Honorary Doctorate from Sydney University. And she continued as a consultant for some time. up with Alex Baxter in work on died in 1997. Freeman, who had the HTI accelerator to study nursed him devotedly, was much saddened by his death.

a Senior Scientific Officer and Perth, Western Australia 7 January Certificate Examination (the Freeman stuck with physics ing that she would have to sen because it was near into conscience, not to return to Aus- 1997); died Oxford 18 March 1998.

Dr Zoltán Frankl

great survivor: of the concen- Camp, he decided to pack his tration camps, of post-war medical bag of surgical instrutyranny, of a huge upheaval in ments. That little bag saved his his professional life in middle life and that of many others over age, and of difficulties and setbacks that would bave stopped ample of his quick thinking a lesser man in his tracks.

In his 1996 autobiography Whirlwind he describes how, at the last minute, as he set off with Other Hungarian Jews in November 1944 to the infamous of Hungary's leading oral sur-

the next year and is a perfect exand practical approach to danger, disaster and cruelty.

Born in 1907 in Kishunhalas, Hungary, to a poor Jewish family, Frankl became one

maxillo-facial surgery and operating on patients in every sitnation from the lice-ridden tents of Manthausen to the leading dental hospital in Budapest.

One of his most hair-raising operations was on Mihaly Parkas, the brutal Defence Minister in the post-war Communist government; it was a dangerous undertaking, not made easier by the presence of 14 secret ser-

hand remained steady and the minister was "saved". Afterwards a Christian colleague whispered to him: "Zoltán, why didn't you kill him?" For a man who believed above all in the Latin tag: "Nil nocere",

there was only one answer. After the revolution of 1956, Frankl left Hungary with his family and eventually arrived in Britain, where he had to qual-

ZOLTAN FRANKL was a Mauthausen Concentration geons, pioneering techniques in vicemen next door, but Franki's ify all over again, revising from programme about him, Working brilliant career in Harley Street a tremendous reaction. followed, and he was still working there in 1989 when be Frankl, a week before his death. retired, aged 82.

He went on working on arcentre of a family be loved and occasionally infuriated (his in his beret, grinning bugely in adored wife, Anuci, died in the Hampstead streets near his 1907; married (one son, one dough-1988). In 1991 I helped make a home, and greeting every pret-ter); died London 5 March 1998. Frankt: 'Darlinkt'

books that had his own articles Among the Tyrants, which was quoted in the hibliography. A broadcast on Radio 4 and got

My last sight of Zoltán was at his table bent over an article on oral surgery be was tryticles and his antobiography, the ing desperately to finish - he did! But I like best to think of him

ty woman with a loud "Darlinki" When his son, Andrew, went into the bank to close his account, the woman cashier burst into tears. She was going to miss the man who brought her flowers each time he came to cash a cheque.

Piers Pluwright

Zolton Frankl, oral surgeon; born Kiskunhalas, Hungary 6 August



BIRTHS, **MARRIAGES** & DEATHS

BIRTHS

BAKER: On 24 March 1998, to Giles and Sandra, a son, Jared Jacob Arran, at Derby City Hospital. ROUGHTON: To Julian and Adèle (née Matthews) a son, Rafe Canning, on 24 March 1998 in Suffolk.

DEATHS

MONEY-KYRLE: Alexander, on 20 March in Amsterdam, aged 35. Funeral on Monday 30 March at 5t Andrew's Church, Heddington, near Caine, Wittshire at 2pm. Empuries to Wootten & Son Funeral Directors 01249 812258.

NEWSOM DAVIS: Dorothy Elleen.
On 25 March 1998, aged 90. Belowed wife of Kenneth, and dearly loved mother, grandmother and greatgrandmother. Cremation private. Service of Thanksgiving al St Bartholomew's Church, Crewkerne, on Priday 3 April at 2.30pm. Enquires to 01460 74547.

Announcements for BIRTHS, MAR-RIAGES & DEATHS should be posted to the Gazette Editor. The Indepen-tent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf, Mindon E14 SDL, telephoned to 8/71-2/3 2012 or faxed to 8/71-2/3 2010. Charges are £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

Mr David Andrews, former chair-man, Gwion, 65; Miss Ruth Ashton, man, Gwion, 65; Miss Kuth Ashton, former General Secretary, Royal College of Midwives, 59; Mr Robert Bauman, chairman, British Aerospace, 67; Professor Alastair Bellingham, haematologist, 60; Str Louis Blom-Cooper QC, Independent Commissioner for the Holding Central Professor Cen Commissioner for the Holding Cen-tres, Northern Ireland, 72; Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, former prime minister, 86; Mr Robert Cohan, choreographer, 73; Mr Richard Den-ning, actor, 84; Lord Panshawe of Richmond, former MP, 71; Mr Julian Glover, actor, 63; Sir David Hancock, former senior civil servant, 64; Mr Nick Hawkins MP, 41; Mr Victor Hochbayerr, impressing, 75; Lord Nick Hawkins Mr. 1.

Hochhauser, impresario, 75; Lord
Lyell, former government minister,
59; Mr Patrick McCabe, novelist, 43;
Mr Geoffrey Parker, chairman, Teacher Training Agency, 65; Lord Phinth, MEP, 73; Mr Mstislav Rosropovich, cellist and conductor, 71; Mr Budd Schulberg, novelist and screenwriter, 84; Sir Richard Sharp, former senior civil servant, 83; Admiral Sir Jock Slater, First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff, 60; Pro-

Birthdays

fessor Margaret Stacey, sociologist, 76; Mr Frank Taylor, Chief Consta-ble, Durham, 65; Miss Daphne Todd, President, Royal Society of Portrait Painters, 51; Mr Cyrus Vance, former US Secretary of State, 81; Mr Michael York, actor, 56.

Anniversaries

Births: Karl Mannheim, sociologist 1893, Gloria May Josephine Swan-son, actress, 1899. Deather James VI of Scotland/James I of Great Britain, of Scotland/James I of Great Britain, 1625; Gianbertista Tiepolo, Venetian painter, 1770; Yuri Alekseyevich Gagarin, cosmonaut, killed in an aircraft accident 1968. On this day: Oliver Goldsmith's Vieur of Wakefield was published, 1766; universal suffrage was introduced in Spain, 1890. Today is the Feast Day of St Alkeld or Athilda and St John of Egypt Lectures

Victoria and Albert Mus

Beth McKillop, "The Arts of the Korean Court", 2.30pm. Tate Gallery: Michèle Roberts, The Transfigured Body in the Work of Pierre Bounard: the house and the

Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 6.11pm. United Synagogues: 081-3G 3699. Federation of Synagogues: 080-267, 2263.
Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 077-580 1653. Reform Synagogues of Great Britain 080-3-99 4731, Spanish and Batterian hare Commerciors

Synagogue services

Changing of the Guard

LAW REPORT: 27 MARCH 1998

Contract to share fees could not be enforced

Mohamed v Alaga & Co; Chancery Division (Mr Justice Lishuman) 25 March 1998

AN AGREEMENT whereby a third party introduced clients to a solicitor for the payment of a share of the solicitor's fees was not enforceable.

The court allowed the appeal of the defendant firm of solicitors against a decision under Order 14A of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

The plaintiff assisted Somali refugees with their applications for asylum and for residence. He claimed to have entered into an oral contract with the defendant, the terms of which were that he would introduce Somali refugees to the defendant, who would apply for legal aid and represent the refugees on their asylum applications; that he would help the defendant in prepar-

cations; and that the defendant determining a question of fact. any person. The rules had in performance of such a conwould pay him commission equivalent to half the fees re- in the present case: whether the legislation. ceived by it from the Legal Aid Board.

The plaintiff claimed that

pursuant to that contract be

the defendant, and that al- licitor entering into such agreeready paid him £18,887.18, further sums were outstanding, of which he sought payment. The question whether an agreement such as that which the plaintiff claimed to exist between himself and the defendant was legally enforceable was ordered to be decided as a question of law pursuant to RSC Order 14A.

Gerwyn Samuel (Jansons) for the plaintiff: Sir Godfray Le Quesne QC

ing and presenting the appli- that Order 14A was not apt for or her professional fees with and from making any payment

agreement alleged by the plaintiff had ever been made, and whether the plaintiff had been aware, when he entered into Solicitors Practice Rules, made under section 31 of the Solicitors Act 1974. The court bad

been invited for the purposes

assume in favour of the plain-

tiff on both those questions of

Practice Rules prohibited soductions by way of commission or otherwise, and rule 7(1) prowere not relevant to the present case, that a solicitor should

Rule 3 of the Solicitors paying anything for them. licitors from paying for intro- ever, enforce a contract which plaintiff's would not be made and Paschal Weish (Alaga & Co) for vided, with exceptions which ordinate legislation. Rule 7

There were two issues of fact the effect of subordinate tract, and the contact was like-The plaintiff's case was that

there was nothing illegal or inherently wrong in a solicitor's agreeing to share his fees or to had introduced 243 clients to it, of the prohibition on a so- pay an introduction fee for work: the rules were designed though the defendant had al- ments contained io the to regulate the professional conduct of solicitors, and, in the event of breach, to give rise to disciplinary offences, but not to penalise innocent third parof the present proceedings to ties nor to enable solicitors to retain at the expense of the third parties the benefit of services rendered without

The court would not, bowwas expressly or impliedly prohibited by statute or subexpressly prohibited a solicitor both from entering into a brought to an immediate and Mr Justice Lightman said not share or agree to share his contract for the sharing of fees summary end.

wise prohibted by rule 3 as an agreement to reward the plaintiff for the introduction of

It was highly blameworthy for a solicitor to enter into such a contract, and the mure so if he failed to warn a party with whom be dealt of the provisions of the rules. If, as the court was bound to assume, the plaintiff had been ignorant of rules 3 and 7, and if that ignorance was prevalent, it was to be boped that the indement in the oresent case would dissipate that ignorance, so that a claim and plea of ignorance such as the again, and so that any current practice of rewarding introductions, sharing fees and paying commissions would be

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS The Guess with Cieve Runser, South West Region-ol Centers of the Catelo Days for the Band Association, Eactor, Devote as Patran, S. Loye's College Found-tion, voils S. Loye's College, Emelor, while the Bridge loss, Topoloma, Devote, and visits the Communica-

Training Contre. Royal Maximus, Lympatone, Downs, Perion Schowerd, Truston, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Psynchoton, participants in a video that with the Dysho of Edinburgh's Award South American Dyshoton during a Oold Award Consumery by the Dwarts of South Awards, the Hois John Olects, at

INDEPENDENT

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The missing notes of welfare reform

FRANK FIELD should be one of the Government's assets when it comes tn welfare reform. He has lnng experience - be became involved with the subject when Tony Blair was still a teenager. He is universally thought of as dedicated, thoughtful and energetic. Only last month he implicitly compared his relationship with Tony Blair to that of Keith Joseph and Mrs Thatcher - philosopher prince (or mad monk?) and powerful monarch.

In the marathon race that is welfare reform, his green paper yesterday, "A New Contract for Welfare", gave him the opportunity, as David Coleman might have put it, to "open his legs and show his class". He showed

His statement in the Communs showed all the signs of having been put through the Treasury wringer. It sounded as if it had once had specifics in it, which had all been taken out. Its timing, nine days after the Budget, said it all.

But, after a Budget which was all about the duty to work, important questions for the welfare state remain. What sort of responsibility do we owe to those who really cannot and should not work? Mr Field did not have the answers. He mentioned poor present-day pensioners. They shall have pilot schemes. (We knew that.) What about the genuinely incapacitated? Tell you later. What about inne parents of children under five? Nothing.

Mr Field teased us by saying there had been much support for his idea of compulsory second pensions, before announcing a further green paper later in the year. He promised "fundamental reform" of the Child Support Agency. Later in the year. He was going to crack down on housing benefit fraud, by checking people's National Insurance numbers. All well and good. But hardly "thinking the unthinkable", which was oversold during the previous rhetorical phase.

The one concrete proposal yesterday was the setting up of a Disability Rights Commission. The lion of welfare reform roared and brought forth a quango. Worse than that, a quango on a bed of cotton-wool rhetoric designed to calm the panic caused by earlier leaks of big cuts in the disability budget.

What was missing was not soundbites or presentational device, What was missing was not a hig statement of the philosophy of welfare reform. What was missing in Mr Field's statement was a translation of all that stuff into plain language that relates the government's intentions to the lives of real people. We are not demanding detailed legislative measures; clearly that will take time. But what should have been in the green paper was a statement of bow the Government sees the path of welfare spending as a share of national income, and a clear description of the kinds of people who should gain and lose.

Mr Field mendoned the tripling of numbers claiming Incapacity Benefit since 1979. Kick their crutches away! But then he mentioned the 50 per cent of those entitled to Disability Living Allowance who do not claim it. Give their crutches back!

Perhaps he has a plan and it is not for public consumption. That would be a pity because Blairism needs the same kind of clarity as Thatcherism if this lot are to emulate her abilities as a poliocal educator.

Eric Morecambe described the piano-playing of his partner as "the right notes but not necessarily in the right order". With this government it feels not only as if some of the notes are missing, but that the roadshow has come before the reform, the spin before the policy announcement and, much to fill in the gaps and get the notes in the right order.

Favours. Not fairness

IN the matter of Tony Blair lobbying the Italian prime minister on behalf of Rupert Murdoch, let us be clear about one thing first. This newspaper holds a broadly favourable view of the Labour Government and its leader. We know about the "big picture" and on the whole we approve of it.

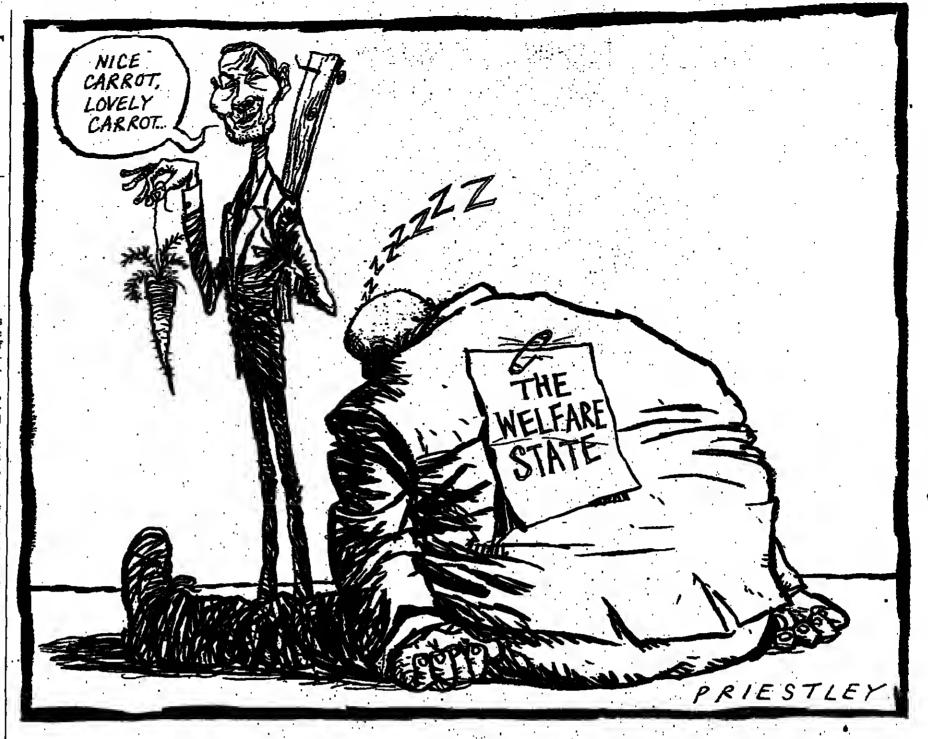
So when we criticise Mr Blair for cosying up to vested interests, we are not animated by prejudice or allowing ourselves to be distracted by ottle tattle. Mr Blair should not have mentioned Mr Murdoch when he spoke to Romano Prodi on the telephone on Wednesday last week, except to warn him of the slippery qualities of the Australo-American magnate's undertakings in respect of editorial independence and competition.

After he did so, Mr Blair's office should not have tried to mislead journalists who asked legitimate questions about the call. Claiming that Mr Blair could not have "lobbied" Mr Prodi because the call came from Italy is insulting misinformation. And refusing to discuss whether Mr Blair had spoken by phone to Mr Murdoch on the grounds that this would have been a "private conversation" is a disgrace to open government. It only puts aff having to answer the inevitable parliamentary questions which will - right-

Of course, The Independent has an interest to declare. We do not approve of Mr Murdoch. We think he is engaged in anti-competitive practices in order to extend his dominant position in the British media market - practices which damage us commercially.

Yesterday the central issue was laid bare, not by us but by the Financial Times, which brought its unsentimental business perspective to bear on the matter. "Rupert Murdoch told colleagues last week that he would telephone Tony Blair for help in ascertaining whether the Italian government would block his proposed £4bm acquisition of Mediaset, Italy's leading commercial television network."

This sheds an ironic light on the Prime Minister's insistence that the Goverrament would treat Mr Murdoch no differently from any other proprietor - and an even more bitterly ironic light on his pre-election pledge to offer trade unions and employers "fairness not favours". The Downing Street switchboard should now be considered an open helpline for any company considering a foreign takeswer, or for any union worried about employment rights.



Fees for students

FROM their comfortable positions, it is charming and natural for Sebastian MacMillan and Ian Johnston (Letters, 25 March) to wish that all the world could enjoy the same privileges at university as they did. Alas, the world, and certainly Britain, is not yet wealthy enough for this to be possible. Given the NHS waiting lists and the deficiencies of state

schooling, it is unlikely ever to be so. For more students, especially those from poor schools and poor families, even to get to university demands fairer sharing of scarce rethose who can afford to make a modest contribution to the cost of their studies do so on behalf of those who cannot. Fees are the instrument of social justice, not its enemy.

In any case, for universities to be wholly dependent on government patronage is to set the clock back to the Middle Ages. Their most cherished attribute is their freedom to oppose conformity and, if it should come to it, the government itself. That prospect makes the current argument about fees look quite small. It would be better for universities to be wholly funded out of fees, leaving it to government to recompense students accordingly. We would then witness a rebirth of higher education in Britain. Professor Sir GRAHAM HILLS

DIANA WARWICK, Chief Executive of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals, in her letter defending the policy of charging tuition fees to students (23 March), conveniently did not draw attention to the real injustice for students from low income families. It is they who will have to borrow the full cost of maintenance for each academic year, which will result in them leaving university with a far greater burden of debt than students from more affluent families. Baroness BLATCH

House of Lords

LETTERS

Post letters to Letters to the Editor and include a daytime telephone number Fax 0171 293 2056; e-mail: letters@independent.co.uk E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Labour's slave society

I AM one of probably few people who would deny that those who can work necessarily have a "duty" to do so ("Farewell to welfare as Blair orders Britain to work", 26 March).

For most of mankind's existence. before all-embracing states, people to open the university doors wider is for whatever reason, the society in Chairperson. further to reduce costs or to introduce which they found themselves, to The Solar Energy Society fees. It is then not unjust to expect that leave and do their best elsewhere, on Oxford yacant land. As this option is not available these days, it is very reasonable to expect the state to provide financial compensation for its loss, in the form of a basic guaranteed income.

A society from which there is no exit, and in which all have a duty to work, is a slave society. **GRAHAM ROUNCE** London E2

Energy for the future

I WAS shocked by the comments made by John Battle in the Commons European Legislation Committee on the EU White Paper on Renewable Energy (report, 23 March).

The White Paper is a tempered and realistic assessment of the future potential of renewables, the types of programmes and investments-needed to stimulate sustainable markets in Europe and for exports, and the wealth creation which will come of this investment.

The White Paper estimates that, for a net investment of around 95 billion ECU, up to 900,000 new jobs will. be created; in 2010, 3 hillion ECU in fuel costs will have been saved; reliance on imported fuels will be reduced by 17.5 per cent; carbon dioxide emissions will be cut by 402 million tounes per year by 2010; and economic growth will be stimulated in deprived regions by the development of renewable energy industries.

to power with a manifesto strongly supporting the growth of renewables, and with a Prime Minister who has internationally proclaimed Britain's support for renewable energy tech-

and British industry will again be left on the sidelines.

Heroin cure

YOUR article "Heroin cure may have killed six" (25 February) says that Mr Tran Khuong Dan "may have. covered up the death of up to six paoents in his care". The death of only one patient is known. This patient was very sick when he came to the Detoxification Center, and the reason of his death is not yet clear. The family of this patient agreed voluntarily to take their son's body for burial.

Heantos is a medication used for treatment of drug addiction, discovcred by Mr Dan in the late Eighties. In 1991 Heantos was tested and evaluated by an MOH scientific committee, and there was a decision to allow its utilisation in the treatment centres belonging to the Ministry of Labour, War Invalids and Social Affairs. According to this decision Mr Dan has also to collect and supply further data on Heantos to the MOH for the anthorisation of the production and wide use of this medication. This has not yet happened.

In 1996 there was a new decision from MOH on the evaluation of the efficacy and safety of all herbal medications. Heantos is now being evaluated according to the new standards and regulations, and we are waiting for the test results. Professor Dr'TRAN VAN SUNG Institute of Chemistry Surely a government which came Hanoi, Vietnam

Mitfords at home

MITFORD Hall, in Northumberland, was not the house "immortalised in Jessica [Mitford's] Hons and Rebels" ("Talk of the Toon", 21 nologies, cannot take such a myopic stand. The rest of Europe will laugh, March). The relevant bouse in her book was the newly built one at Swinbrook, near Burford, Oxfordshire.

> company). Jessica was quoted as saying "I do not even know of the place."

All the same, she, ber sister Nancy and all were, and are, descended from a John Mitford (e1643-1720), the or two. third of II children, who left Mitford to seek his fortune in London and, by his marriage to a Sarah Powell in 1671, founded that branch of the family. DAVID BRUXNER London SW3

Cost of a computer

I WAS surprised to read the article "Computer in every home for the Millennium" (19 March). I think Derek Wyatt MP's calculations slightly underestimate the scale of such a proposal.

If funding was to be found to provide £1,000 PCs for 23.5 million homes, it would cost £23.5bn, not not cricket", 26 March) is misguid-£240m, which clearly represents onlya £10 unit cost for the PCs. Let's hope the Millennium Dome does not make the same scale error in its forecasts. DAVID PEARSON

Managing Director, Sony UK Ltd Weybridge, Surrey

My moment of fame

I HAVE long been wanting to boast to a wider public that David Aaronovitch was my babysitter. Is now the moment? (letter, 24 March) Fame at last? PENELOPE WOOLFIT

Diana margarine

I SUSPECT that a spiritual malaise lies behind the almost desperate quest to raise more and more millions for the Diana Memorial Fund - first, postage stamps, now pots of margarine (report, 25 March; Comment, 26 March), and charity balls in the United States. It is demeaning and degrading.

I fear that we are slipping into the appalling delusion that the pursuit of money, so clearly seen in some boardrooms, among fundbolders in offsbore trusts and among the Lottery ticket / Premium bona-ouying public, is someor land was about to be sold in 1992 (to rendered acceptable if we con-Freddy and Bruce Shepherd or their vince ourselves that we are raising funds for charity. We may indeed end up helping to restore Brighton Pier or the Royal Opera House, but we really wanted to win a million

> When Flora margarine puts Princess Diana's image on its product and says that it is donating all the proceeds to the Memorial Fund, it is time for all right-thinking people to cry out. Don't try to fool us, or yourselves. This is advertising. The pursuit of money, even for charity, has its limits.

The Rev RICHARD HAYES St Many Woolnoth

A fine England captain

edly frivolous about Scottish cricketers. You should remember that the England captain who achieved most notable success over Australia, and riled that old enemy more than any skipper before or since, was Douglas Robert Jardine.

Of impeccable Scottish descent (though boro in India), he captained England in 15 Tests, winning nine and losing just one. Could there be any better reason for England opposition to all Scottish devolution, and the consequent loss of potential Test leadership? MURRAY HEDGCOCK London SW14

re blacks pr

A sure-fire way to drive young men to acts of rebellion - Scottish dance music



THE Associated Board are the people who hand out grades to children. Well, not to any children. Just to children who are good enough to get grades. I think I got Grade 3 trombone once. I never got any grades for piano playing, because although I was better at piano than trombone, I didn't want to get piano grades for classical playing. I wanted to get piano grades for jazz playing, and that was impossible because they didn't award grades for jazz playing.

Well, they do now. Or at least they are about to do so. If you were to pass the Purcell Room this morning shortly after 11am. and hear the sounds of jazz piano sceping out, it would mean two things. One, that you had supernaturally good hearing, because sound doesn't seep easily out of the Purceil Room. Two, that the Associated Board are holding a press conference to announce the addition of jazz to the syllabus - grades for jazz piano playing and for jazz ensemble playing - and that young to help in the proceedings.

Good stuff, but all a bit late for me. When I was fifteen and desperately wanted to learn how to play jazz, there was no encouragement from music teachers and no recognition from the authorities that jazz could be respectable, or even teachable. After all, I already played the piano to a reasonable standard, so I thought it would merely be a question of working out how jazz was played and then playing it.

What I found was that I was already so classically brainwashed that I couldn't do it on the piano. Classical music is all about slavery to the written score, not about making things up. The trouble was, I was a good sight reader. If it was written down and within my technical grasp, I could usually play it straight off. If it wasn't written down. I couldn't begin to handle it. I was the worst possible candidate for jazz. On the piano. Still, at least I had the sense to see that

British jazz star Julian Joseph is on hand if I were to take up another instrument and treat it entirely as a jazz justrument, I would have a much better chance of getting somewhere, so I started trombone lessons. I never got very good on trombone but at least I learnt to play rough and ready jazz, and to improvise as I couldn't on the piano, and I formed a jazz band from my fellow pupils at the far-away boarding school in Scotland to which I had been sent by well-meaning parents (the same one to which Robbie Coltrane was later sent by similar perents).

Now, this is where we see how music education bas changed over the years. Today jazz is being admitted to the Associated Board's syllabus. Then, the head music teacher sent for me and said that I was not allowed to form a jazz band.

"You cannot stop me," I said. "No, but I can stop you rehearsing in school music rooms and make life very difficult for you," he said.

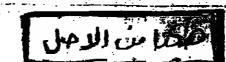
"Look, Kington, I have no objection to dance music as such. We all need dance music. But this is a Scottish school! If you form a band, you must play Scottish dance music. Jazz is an alien music! I cannot allow it!"

The prospect of being forced to play Scottish dance music (much more alien to me then than jazz was) seemed so appalling that the band and I were forced into direct political action. We were not in fact very politically conscious (except for the bass player, Alexander Cockburn, who was always a better writer than a bass player and has since then developed into one of America's leading left wing journalists) but it occurred to us that most of us also played in the school orchestra and that if we withdrew our labour from the orchestra shortly before an important concert, our strike action might force the authorities to cave in. Amazingly, it did, and we got clearance and rehearsal space for our band, though looking back I think that going on strike

was probably the most enjoyable bit of the

Today, we would be received with open arms and made to take grade exams, I wonder if we would have survived the ap-

Looking back, I realise that almost everything I have ever wanted to do in life – play jazz, write humour, speak Welsh, kick a football so that it bends round the edge of the defensive wall and inside the post - are things that couldn't be taught, or at least couldn't easily be taught then. Now almost all of them can. But if I were at school now, would I actually want to do these officially approved-of things? Would I not look round for something more rebellious? If Alex Cockburn and Robbic Coltrane were back at school now, and were being actively encouraged to be left-wing scribblers or comic actors, would they become something else?



every time you turn on the TV

serve a useful purpose? I suppose

it does if you are a desperate

filmmaker, a fundamentalist

Christian, a women's magazine

editor or Melanic Phillips, or per-

haps a man. It must soften the

blow that men are no longer of-

ficially breadwinners to know

that at the end of a hard work-

ing, or non-working day, that it

is only you who can give women

The conversion of dippy

new-age thinking, right-wing

fundamentalism and the sus-

ceptibility of women to old-

fashioned myths of romance is

frightening to behold. Having

just spent a week in the States

watching a miraculous combi-

nation of Jerry Springer (My Sister Slept With All My Three

Husbands), Christian evange-

lists and a new-age channel in San Francisco called Ouest, it

became clear they were alt

pumping out the same message:

that there is a special person out

Don't sell yourself short by

sleeping with anyone else until

you meet them as this denotes

low self-esteem. When you do

meet them, sex will be ecstatic

because the only true sexual

happiness is to be found with-

in a monogamous relationship.

Well, this is all just great but

whatever happened in women's

sexual as well as financial free-

dom? Whatever happened to

the idea that maybe one person

cannot fulfil all of your needs

for all of your life! Or am I just

riage, Portfolio people surely

will have several lowers over a

I say that what is happening is

part of the backlash - the reinstatement of an old emotional

order wheo the economic one

is so elearly changing - and

There is a link between sex

being uld fashioned?

there just waiting for you.

what it is they really need.

Here is the test by which the Blair project will be judged



DONALD MACINTYRE FRANK FIELD'S PRINCIPLES

IF ANYONE is qualified by his own political history to walk the third way, it's Frank Field. One of George Orwell's more conventionally minded colleagues on the left once said (admiringly) that Orwell had a unique capacity to make his frieods feel uncomfortable. Field is rather like that.

As Orwell was to the fellow travellers of his day, so Field was to much of the conventional Labour wisdom of the 1980s. He stated and restated the link between individual rights and duties that permeates yesterday's Green Paper before Blairism was even thought of. He saw the virtues of compulsory savings for privately provided pensions when the idea was wholly taboo in his own party. And, around the time of Margaret Thatcher's fall in 1990, he thought, as a Labour backbencher, that she shouldn't be pushed out by her ministers and told her so.

Yet this was - and is - exactly the same Field who embodies to an extreme the ascetie ideal of plain living and high thinking, who resigned on a left-wing principle from the Labour front beoch to vote against, rather than merely abstain from voting for, the ban on trade unions at GCHQ, and who when he says, as he did in his Commons statement yesterday, that he has learned most about welfare from his own poor constituents in Birkenhead, actually means it.

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Recently, of course, this unusual figure bas been cast as co-star in one of the great Whitehall soap operas, the Frank and Harriet show. The exceedingly well documented running battles between Field and Harman withio the Department of Social Security have provided hours of harmless and oot so harmless entertainment for their colleagues. They have abated now, as Harman's demure presence on the Treasury bench yesterday beside Field was intended to indicate. But that won't stop a quite widespread view among the political classes that the most interesting aspect of yesterday's statement is that it was delivered by Field and oot Harman and that this means Harman will be sacked from the Cabinet and Field will take her job.

that. For all the ritual complaints that it poses at least as many questions as it answers. the 96 pages of Field's Green Paper tell us quite a lot about how and why the Blair govemment wants to reform welfare. True, the question of how compulsory saving for pensioners should be extended to those who don't do it now will be left to John Denham's policy paper later in the year. Sure, the Green Paper is thin on how alternatives to the state - such as Field's beloved mutuals - can provide social insurance for risks from long-term illness to redundancy. But what is clear is the distinctly Blairite view that, while "The UK needs more welfare not less", it is no longer up to the taxpayer to fund it. And yes, in spelling out how the hage, exponentially rising costs of £11bn worth of housing benefit means tenants aren't interested in the rents they pay and landlords can charge what they like, it admits there areo't easy answers. But it isn't hard to infer that a wholly new system of financing rented housing costs is on the way. And there is quite a lot else lurking in the detail.

Disability is a rather good example. The decision not to means test Disability Living Allowance is a real one, the outcome of a vigorous behind-the-scenes Whitehall debate in which David Blunkett, among others, expressed outrage at some DSS proposals to make it no longer a universal benefft. Yes, the Green Paper hints that more objective medical testing may be needed to support DLA claims - though it also evenhandedly points out that only between 40 and 60 per cent of those who need it are claiming it. But the paper has also recognised that if more of the disabled can be encouraged to work, employers will have to halt their wholesale discrimination against them, which is why the newly announced Disability Rights Commission is necessary. Equally it is emphatic on the urgent need to abandon the barmy system under which incapacity benefit is used as a "simple but expensive route for the Government to keep the unemployment numbers down". Instead of a benefit that acts as a positive incentive to stay at home - and which is either paid in full or not paid at all -it proposes a new test, for new claimants, which will allow recipients to keep some benefit and do some work. And savings, the paper firmly promises, will be used to give more support for those too disabled to work.

This matters partly because the costs are huge - Incapacity Benefit costs £7.8bn, But the section on disability also illustrates some of the Green Paper's most important themes. The first, as for the budget, is the virtues of economic independence through work. The old Sixties doctrine that we would end the century with fewer people at work and all of us working less, has no place in Blair-Brown-Fieldistu. Another is that universal benefits are here to stay. On the one hand, there is nothing in the Green Paper that stops Gordon Brown taxing DLA for

> Field is a man for brilliant insights rather than programmes

the very well off as he plans to tax child benefit. Redistribution through taxation of benefits is not taboo. But it looks as though ending them altogether, and risking dislocating the prosperous from the tax and benefit system, is. The doctrine that services for the poor mean poor services has largely won against "affluence testing". Third-- there is quite a lot to reassure the disabled and those currently receiving incapacity benefit. Which illustrates another theme: the need to build a national a consensus for change. To reform the welfare state between now and 2020, you have to win elections to do it. And if that means

Governments face a chronic difficulty. If

they produce a fixed blueprint and then force through legislation (the poll tax springs to mind) everyone asks why they didn't consult. If they set out the contours of change without filling in all the details, the same critics ask "where's the beef?" Fortunately, the run-up to yesterday's Green Paper illustrates why it was needed. Opening a broad national debate certainly beats sleepwalking into a row on ill-thought-out lone benefit cuts and a lot of terrifying leaks on plans for the disabled. Field is anyway a man for brilliant insights rather than programmes. Blair's own hand can be detected in much of the Green Paper. Wholesale abolition of means testing or a big-bang move to compulsory private pensions isn't what the paper is about. And if Field had to modify some of his more expensive ambitions, that's the price you pay for being in power. But don't believe this is all fine words and little else. Field's statement yesterday set the test by which the longterm failure and success of the Blair project will be judged.

The plight of the thirtysomething female who hasn't met 'Mr Right'



SUZANNE MOORE ON CHOICE AND BABIES

AS I AM still, for a few months at least, a thirtysomething woman, I feel compelled to make a contribution to the "crisis" that is supposedly in our midst. Luckily, I still belong to this media-created category. Swamped by articles, books and TV programmes about attractive but lonely thirtysomethings, Bridget Joneses without the humour or the publishing contract, I feel occasional sympathy for them, but mostly tense imitation.

What is occurring here is nothing tess than a backlash against feminism and, as always, it is women themselves who are colluding in this backlash. The problem of the thirtysomething female who basn't met "Mr Right" - ie Mr Big-Salary, Mr Devastatingly-Good-Looking, Mr Let-Me-Inseminate-You-Immediately, Mr I-will-Give-You-A-Home-That-Looks-Like -Something-Out-Of-Eile-Decor - is simple. Her problems are fooled for one second. When it caused by being able to have a

Freely available contraception and abortion, you know the right to control our own fertility, those little things that generations of women have fought so hard for, have even died for, has enabled the modern woman to choose not to have babies. It has meant that the average woman is not pregnant or breast feeding for 14 years of her life. It has meant that sex can he for pleasure as well as procreation. And this, surely, most of us would agree, is a jolly good thing. I point this out only besomething, have-it-all whingers is somebow deemed to be a bad

Unfortunately, if you happen to be a female with an average reproductive system, it is assumed that despite having chosen not to have a baby for a good 20 years, unconsciously, subconsciously, or better still, on television, you'd better reveal all about the ticking of your biological clock. You see babies in parks and you want one. Your friends have got them and you haven't. I understand. I feel much the same way about a Conran sofa. Perhaps my softfurnishings clock is ticking and I will simply go doolally if I don't get one soon.

The message here is simple: despite what you might think about women's increasing economic independence and freedom, they can, as always, be



reduced to one thing, biology.
All those successful young women out there might look good to you, they may appear to be having a fabulous time with their mates, but don't be comes down to it, they are little more than waiting wombs. The hole in their lives can only be plugged by one thing, an infant that emerges blinking into the light fully dressed in

rently masquerading as social

If women really want to an obsessive desire to repro- effectively what we saw hapduce but have oot yet met the right man (please, girls are we still living in a Barbara Cartland novel), why don't they just have one? I say this not as a smug married womao, but as a woman who has brought up two children on her own, I know how difficult it is and I perfectly

as impecuably dressed spinsters.

in the Citting Edge TV dochave babies, are overtaken with umentary this week, this is pening. There is a vast amount of money to be made out of all this. If you can't write a newel about it, then you can always open a datiog agency. Whatever happened to the idea that it might be possible for a woman to exist in a world without a man continually glued to her side?

sick of the self deception cur- to dumb down their demands and accept the dress or be east

> and work. Just as we're encouraged to believe that there are no longer jobs for life, but skills for life, so, too, serial monogamy is the new marlifetime, not just the one. We all know this is true. That is why

In the meantime, I would like to suggest that no-one is allowed in use the phrases Mr Right, biological clock or thirtybe brutal, get pregnant or don't. just stop whinging about it. Do what Jodie Foster did, and give artificial insemination a go. if you need to. If you want to act emotionally as though you were living in the 18th ceptury, that's up to you. Just don't demand contraception, abortion. a career ur even, Gnd forbid, n Conran sofa.

If women really want to have babies, are overtaken with an obsessive desire to reproduce but have not yet met the right man, why don't they just have one?

what all these women need is not love, equality, or even friendship, but, to put it crudely, ejaculation. Well, I'm sure this might make certain men feel useful, even purposeful, but it makes me feet bloody depressed. In the midst of the Nineties "gender quake", what we have before our eyes is yet another tired rerun of the old biology-is-destiny myth, and it is about time some of these women were as honest with themselves as they are prepared to be in froot of any old

If you get to your late 30s and you could have had, hut haven't had, a baby, perhaps you didn't really want one. Perhaps you chose other things instead and maybe that's not so bad. Of course, only a heretic or a man would say such a thing. Or perhaps I will, because I am

television crew.

understand why anyone would refuse to make the choices that I have made.

But I see it as a choice and I see that choice as a luxury that should not now be described as a terrible problem. There is no power without responsibility. That must stand whether you are male or female. The power to control our biology means that womeo must accept responsibility for the choices they What is so galling about the

supposed Bridget Jones - which I mistakenly took to be a satire rather than an accurate social survey - is that these women are on one level success stories. They have careers, nice homes, good looks, but the men to meet their desires are either engaged, in a way that public tavatories are engaged, or second rate. Women then either have

greater financial independence. our emotional dependence is presented as something out of a badly written Mills and Boon paperback?

So, why are cootemporary women happy to portray themselves as failures? Does n generation of thirtysomethings with biological clocks ringing away shauld not surprise us. Modern womeo should do whatever it is they want to du.

Are blacks programmed to die in custody?



ANDREW MARR'S WEEK

OU WANT to know the trouble with blacks? I'll tell you the trouble with hlacks. Squeeze their necks a bit, and they just die on you It's a well-known fact. Or, rather, that's the implication of what Richard Tilt, director-general of the Prison Service, said on Newsnight this week. after the inquest jury decided that Alton Manning had been unlawfully killed during a violent struggle at Blakenhurst prison.

Tilt, quite extraordinarily, suggested the problem was that people of Afro-Caribbean background were likelier to suffer "positional asphyxia" because "there is a physiological difference" between them and whites. As Jason Bennetto and Andrew Buncombe reported in yesterday's paper, the Prison Service helpfully explained that "positional asphyxia ... is when they are held in a certain position. It is when there is pressure put down on the windpipe.

So, in plain terms, black people keep getting killed in prison because there's something funny about their necks. It is nothing whatever to do with racism. Terribly sad and all that, but it's a medical fact - according to Tilt, there is "evidence emerging" about

Well, there's a convenient discovery

- the dreaded "black people dying in custody gene", hitherto unknown to medical science. It sounds very like the physiological fact that black people have small brains or high libidos, and other similar classics. You might have expected to find it in a Southern plantation in the 1850s, but to hear it coming from man in charge of prisons in a liberal democracy is shocking. This man has a lot of explaining to do; and if New Labour means what it says about racism, there will be a wholly justified eruption of anger in the Commons and Whitehall.

ne of the things that has changed around Docklands since my return to the paper - nicely described by a colleague as a "refenestration" - is the fast-growing octwork of cables and steel skeletons in and around the Millennium Dome. But why, writes John Blundell, general director of the Institution of Economie Affairs, is the jamboree happening at Greenwich - or, more specifically, why has Greenwich the prime meridian of longitude? The short answer, he explains, is the might of the Royal Navy rather over a century ago: "In 1884, the International Mendian Conference was held in Washington DC and Greenwich was just one of a number good a story to properly research.

of candidates: the others included Rome, Jerusalem, the Great Pyramid and the Canary Islands, British naval power predominated over religious and historical considerations and Greenwich got the nod."

Had the conference been held today, then presumably the prime meridian would have been in Washington itself, from where the US Navy is controlled, and not Loodoo at all.

peaking of genes, Tony Blair's achievement in delivering a speech in French to the National Assembly may help break the stereotype that there is something in the British gene-pool which disables us from speaking foreign.

The best tale about a British leader failing to communicate in French has Winston Churchill addressing an emment audience in Paris after the war. Intending to explain that when he looked back over his career, it could be split into two phases. Churchill cleared his throat, glared over his spectacles and announced to the startled gathering: "Messieurs et Madames. Quand je regard mon dernière, je vois qu'il se devise en deux parties égal." I suppose he probably never said that; or if he did, that it was a grumbly Churchillian joke. But it's 100

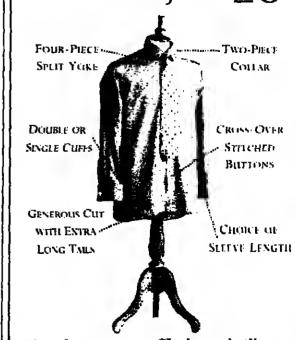
fall the week's unlikely stories so far, however, the teast likely seeming was the customs alert for Iraqi anthrax smuggled into these isles in containers, including duty-free Scotch and scent bottles. It was the kind of thing that would be implausible in a bad airport novel, a caricature scoop out of Drop the Dead Donkey - and, more than that, a Sun exclusive, too. Yet it was, in all essentials, true. Anthrax! The ultimate nightmare.

Or it is for me, anyway. As a child, our family holidays were in Wester Ross, a dazzling, bleak paradisc with an offshore little oightmarish island. Gruinard, Gruinard, silent and sinister, was the anthrax island, poisoned in Ministry of Defence experiments and then uninhabitable, the spores still there io the earth.

For me, it fused into then-common gloom about nuclear holocaust and the evil at the heart of things. I don't suppose teeoagers now have any idea how threatening it seemed, in the era of "Protect and Survive". Now the pervasive fear of imminent destructioo has lifted - a great advance in human happiness which future historians will probably never think of mentioning.

And Gruipard? Clean again.

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BDB in talks to offer Viacom channels for autumn launch

By Peter Thai Larsen

British Digital Broadcasting, the terrestrial television group, is in talks with Viacom about offering the US broadcaster's chanuels, which include MTV and Nickelodeon, as part of its offering when it launches its service in the autumn.

Granada and Carlton, the television groups which each own 50 per cent of BDB, are ready to drop some of the channels they had been preparing to supply in order to make way for the new programming. The news has prompted fears that this may reduce the value of BDB to its share-

Executives at BDB have become increasingly concerned that its package of Screen Two to viewers who were willing to channels would not be enough to tempt viewers when the service launches.

In its licence application, BDB said that Granada and Carlton would each supply

four channels. The remainder would be channels based on BBC programmes supplied by UKTV, the corporation's joint venture with Flextech. The service would also

pay more for them. However, Granada and Carlton may When digital terrestrial television is now drop some of their programmes in launched in the antumn it will carry 30 chan-favour of Viacom's channels. The group opnels, 15 of which will be operated by BDB. erates music channels MTV and VH1 as well as Nickelodeon and the Paramount Comedy Channel.

Michiel Bakker, MTV's European managing director, confirmed that Viacom and BDB were in talks. "They want to make a success of their business," be said. "The offer Sky Sports I, Sky Screen One and Sky line up they presented originally had no familiar channels."

However, analysts now question the value of BDB to its shareholders. They fear that bringing in more programming from third parties will dilute BDB's potential for its owners. Earlier this week, Nat West Markets, the stockbroker, reduced its valuation of BDB from £920m to £200m.

Other observers pointed out that, although Carlton and Granada would suffer by not supplying their own programmes, they would benefit if the entire platform proved more successful as a result of taking on third party programming.

Carlton and Granada may not have to sacrifice their own channels for long. BDB is understood to be keen to take over spare capacity on Licence A, the bundle of digital channels currently reserved for Channel 5 and Weish language broadcaster S4C. Channel 5, for example, has been allocat-

ed three channels but only wants to use one. Advances in the technology used to compress digital signals may also increase the oumber of channels available. Nigel Warmsley, the Cariton director who will continue to run BDB until Stephen Grabiner arrives from United News & Media, recently said that he expected the number of channels that the broadcaster could carry A

would double in just a few years. Nevertheless, these changes are unlikely to be ready in time for BDB's launch in the

Revamp puts 2,000 jobs on line at CWC

By Michael Harrison

THE cable and telephone operator Cable & Wireless Communications is preparing to unveil a sweeping restructuring which could result in a reduction of up to 2,000 jobs throughout the company.

The 12,000-strong workforce is due to week to decide on the level of the job re-

The cost-cutting drive follows an "optimum resourcing review" put in train by Graham Wallace, CWC's new chief executive. He has been seeking ways to make the organisatioo leaner and to align its structure more closely with its markets since his arrival last year. A large number of the job reductions are likely to be among backroom staff as CWC introduces more efficient procedures into the business.

Insiders insisted that the review could create oew posts elsewhere in the company which could reduce the net level of job losses substantially.

understood to have recommended radical cess to the Internet. action to refocus CWC on growth markets such as data processing and the small- and medium-sized business sector.

Since the creation of CWC through a four-way merger of Mercury, Nynex CableComms, Bell Cablemedia and Videotron, the workforce has remained static at 12,000 even though the group has reduced the number of call centres from 10 to three and merged its five network control centres onto two sites.

There has been a recruitment freeze since the beginning of this year while the Coopers & Lybrand review is completed. A spokesman called the possibility of up to 2,000 job reductions "the worst case scenario being bandied around within the organi- grow to 50 per cent within five years.

sation". Last year 400 managers went from the 1,000 CWC inherited at the time of the merger, producing significant cost savings. But the Coopers report has identified further substantial scope for productivity improvements through the incorporation of more information technology.

The spokesman declined to comment ou the level of job reductions or how many new be giveo details of the reorganisation next vacancies could be created as part of the month following a board meeting in the next overhaul, pointing out that before the recruitment freeze there were 3,000 vacancies in the group.

In order to reduce the redundancy bill, CWC is likely to offer jobs elsewhere in the organisation to those whose posts are being made redundant. Natural wastage is also expected to account for a sizeable oumber of reductions because staff turnover in telecoms is above the industry average.

Since Mr Wallace's arrival CWC has embarked oo a £400m upgrade of its long-distance fibre network. The investment is in additioo to the £1bn being spent each year to build out the cable network. It has also unveiled its plans for entering the digital market through a programming link-up with The review, which has been carried out BSkyB and a software deal with Netscape by the accountants Coopers & Lybrand, is and Oracle to give customers high-speed ac-

> CWC has a just over 2 million customers, of whom 760,000 are cable television subscribers. It will launch the digital service this autumn offering access to up 200 channels.

> There has also been a high turnover in its marketing department, with two senior executives departing in the last year. The current advertising campaign, which is costing £50m, oo top of the annual £50m marketing spend, has had mixed reviews.

> One of the areas CWC intends to target for expansion is data processing. In January this year it acquired the data company Anite for £47m. At present, data communications make up about 10 per cent of telecoms traffic, but CWC believes this could



Cuprinol for Dulux dog

By Michael Harrison

SOME of the most famous names in DIY changed hands yesterday after ICI bought the home improvements business of Williams Holdings for £350m. Among the brands included in the sale are Cuprinol, Polyfilla, Polycell and Hammerite.

Williams is using most of the sale proceeds to return £300m of capital to shareholders representing 8 per cent of its equity. The group, which is now focused on fire protection and security products, also announced plans for the flotation oext year of its Portuguese paints business Robbialac which is expected to raise another £100m.

ICI said it would integrate the newlyacquired business with its paints division,

which includes the Dulux brand, to decorative products market.

The business being bought by ICI employs 1,250 people and made profits of £34m on a turnover of £185m in 1997. It has factories in the UK, Austria, Germany, the Netherlands and Italy and last year twothirds of sales were outside the UK.

.Cuprinol is one of the DIY market's biggest selling wood preservatives while the rust treatment Hammerite is sold right around the world.

The sale brings proceeds from Williams' disposal programme to £500m. Earlier this month it agreed to sell its US home products business, NuTone, for £150m and 15 months ago it disposed of its other home and DIY brands, including Rawlplug.

Next shocks with profits warning

NEXT, the high-street retailer that has proved a phenomenal success over the past seven years, shocked investors yesterday when it issued a profits warning caused by buying mistakes in women's clothing and childrenswear. The company said it had over-stocked before Christmas, understocked after it and introduced too many higher-priced high-fashion ranges at the expense of "classic" items.

Next phinged by 24 per cent, closing 173.5p down at 544p and wiping £644m off its market value, as analysts scrambled to downgrade their profits forecasts. The company's place in the FTSE-100 will be under threat when the constituents are reviewed in June if the shares do not stage a dramatic recovery.

The warning is a blow to Lord Wolfson, who recently announced his intention to step down as chairman of the company in May and who, together with David Jones, chief executive, has been credited with rescuing the company from the brink of collapse in the early 1990s.

"Let's be open and honest about it, we've made a mistake," Lord Wolfson said. "Maybe we're allowed ooe, I don't know."

Mr Jones said: "Tm very sad this has happened but we can gain advantage from it. People will realise that they doo't have a divine right to be successful."

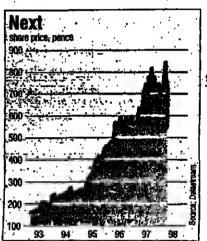
Analysts expressed surprise at the sever-ity of the warning, though there had been rumours of poor trading. Julie Ramshaw at Morgan Stanley said: "It is certainly sethink so. Next is still one of the best cloth- crease in selling space. ing companies, with a strong brand and good stores." Nick Bubb at SG Securities added: "It shows that they are human. These . are the kind of mistakes that can happened in fashion. But it is a good brand and the company has a strong balance sheet. The question is how long it will take for the City

to forgive." The problems started before Christmas. when the group over-stocked with antumn/winter stock resulting in a much bigger January sale to shift £30m-£40m of unsold merchandise. The company's buyers then over-reacted and stocked too little merchandise for the spring/summer collection. The result was that Next's shops and its directory were short of merchandise

in a number of their best-selling lines. Hilary Santell, Next's womenswear product director, resigned around Christmas time after a period off work because of a riding

The company said this, together with the departure of another designer, may have caused problems but they denied her departure was related to the profits warning.

Next also said its internal cootrols had failed and would be strengthened. Christos Angelides, the former bead of menswear buying, has taken over the wom-enswear ranges. "I am oot going to point the finger at any individual," Mr Jones said. "If its anyone's fault, its mine as chief ex-



ecutive." The impact on trading has been dramatic, with sales in the Next shops down rious but is it an enduring problem? I don't by 1.5 per cent in spite of a 12 per cent in-

> First-half profits will oow be lower than last year's £67m. Analysts have cut their full-year forecast from £210m to £175m.

The company said the first signs of problems came in November, when the group's Directory preview catalogue was distributed to 25,000 customers. But with the long lead times in fashioo it was not possible to make adjustments to the ranges in time.

The profits warning overshadowed Next's results for last year, which showed an increase in profits from £159m to £184m. Next has been one of the brightest stars in the retail firmament in the past seven years, during which its shares have risen from 13p to a high of 835p last month. Outlook, page 23

Rail directors scoop £4.4m jackpot

By Michael Harrison

FIVE directors of Thames Trains yesterday shared in a £4.4m bonanza following the sale of the privatised rail operator to a bus company. The Go-Ahead Group,

which already owned 65 per cent of the shares, is buying out the remainder, netting profits of nearly £900,000 for each of the directors who held a 25 per cent stake. The five, led by managing di-

rector Roger McDonald, each invested £10,000 to buy 10,000 shares in Thames Trains, They will be sitting on £880,000 each



£10,000 staite into ₹900,000

following the sale, just 17

months after the business was bought from the Government. Over the same period punctuality on Thames Trains has fallen to the point where auto-

board comfort and the condition of station toilets. Apart from Mr McDonald, the four other directors sharing in the bonanza are Christopher

Scanion, Nicholas Ilisley, Kevin Harrison and David Raymond. About 250 employees of Thames Trains who bought shares at the time of privatisation will also receive a windfail.

sharing in a £1.7m profit worth an average of £6,800. According to the latest matic customer discounts are Opraf figures, punctuality on period. Thames Trains was 84.5 per triggered. And the latest customer satisfaction survey by cent last November. This com-

Joho O'Brien, the franchising pares with its charter standard tax profits of £700,000 and had director, shows increasing num- of 92 per cent and the 89 per bers of complaints about on- ceot figure at which it has to start paying discounts to season ticket holders.

The company operates services between London Paddington and Oxford via Maidenhead and Reading. It also has a service between Reading and Gatwick airport.

Thames Trains has six years left of its seven and a half year franchise awarded in October, 1996 and is receiving subsidies worth £28m a year falling to zero by the end of the franchise

In the nine months to the and of June, 1997 it made pre-

net assets at that date of £600,000.

Mr O'Brien said that as part of the takeover, Go-Ahead has agreed to a number of service improvements. It is to spend an additional £500,000 on station facilities, improve compensation arrangements under the Passengers' Charter and introduce a through service between Oxford and Bristol by October of this year at the lat-

Go-Ahead has also undertaken to introduce bus/rail through-ticketing from at least five destinations from Sep-

Flotation of National Grid left consumers short-changed

ELECTRICITY customers missed out on a bigger rebate when the National Grid was floated in 1995 because the Government underestimated the value of part of the business by 50 per cent and ignored tax breaks enjoyed by the company and its shareholders.

A report from the National Audit Office today shows the DTI valued the Grid's pump storage business at £300m for the purposes of determining how much the company had increased in value since privatisation in 1990.

Two weeks after the flotation, the pump storage business was sold to Mission Energy of the US for £680m.

The NAO also says that the sum to which customers were entitled might have been as high as £1.5bn, had all the tax allowances enjoyed by the Grid and its shareholders been included in the calculations.

In the event they shared a total of £1.18bn which worked out at £52 per customer or a 17 per cent reduction on the average domestic bill. The aim of the Government was to ensure that profits on the flotation of the Grid, which was divided up between the 12 regional electricity companies on privatisation. was split 50:50 between customers and shareholders. Ig-noring the tax breaks, the split

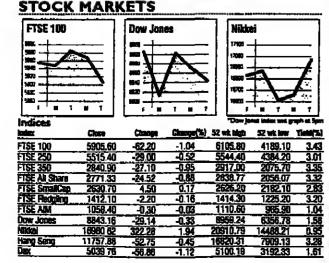
was 48:52 but included them the customer discount was only 36 per cent of the increase.

The report says that the DTI was concerned that the owners of the Grid might have abandoned the flotation if it had insisted on a bigger rebate for customers than was achieved.

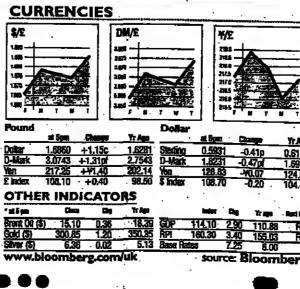
However, the NAO says that had the DTI obtained an independent valuation of the pumped storage business, it would have strengtheoed its hands in negotiations.

Although the rebate was worth £52 only £31 of this was paid from the Grid, the rest coming from taxpayers and non-domestic electricity customers.

Yesterday in the markets



INTEREST RATES UK 18 year gift US loog bond MAIN PRICE CHANGES



TOURIST RATES Australia (dollars) 2,4071 Austria (schillings) 20.88 Balgium (francs) .61.27 Canada (\$) 2,3010 Cyprus (pounds) 0.8639 Denmark (kroner) 11.40 Finland (markica) 9.0893 France (francs) 9.9538 Germany (marks) Greece (drachmel) 516.59 Hong Kong (\$) 2.58 ireland (punts)

Italy (lira) 2,94 lapan (yen) 213.57 Malta (lira) 0.6408 Netherlands (guilders) 3.3475 Norway (kroner) 12,37 Portugal (escudos) 302,73 Spain (pesetas) 251.43 South Africa (rand) 7.9879 Sweden (kroner) D_97 Switzerland (francs) 243% Turkey (lira) 386,605 USA (\$) 1.6360

Source: Thomas Cook

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OUTLOOK ON LORD WOLFSON'S RUN OF BAD LUCK WHY THERE SHOULD BE MORE TAX BREAKS FOR FILM, AND CLARE SHORT'S BLINDING FLASH ON THE ROAD TO DAMASCUS

Next success story starts to wear thin

THE higher they fly, the harder they fall. Such is the fate of Next, whose reputation as the retail success story of the decade this morning has a bit of a rip in the yarn.

The City was so accustomed to the relentless outperformance of this company that everyone had started to believe it was invincible. Perhaps the company's fashion buyers had started to believe it too. At any rate, they took their eye off the ball last year, first ordering clothes that were too trendy and expensive, then going all cautions and leaving the shops short of stock. This may have had something to do with the fact that the company's head of women's wear buying was absent for a prolonged period after a riding accident. Whatever the cause, some irrational exuberance was followed in short order by a wave of unwarranted conservatism.

Perhaps the most surprising thing about Next's problems is that they hadn't happened before. Next has enjoyed 14 con-secutive seasons of successful buying, which is about as good as it gets given the vagaries of fashion. The real let-down was in the group's checking procedures which failed to recognise an imbalance in the women's and children's ranges.

The good news for Next is that it knows what the problems are and can now set about correcting them. The only unknown is whether the confidence of Next's buyers may have been affected. The other element to this story for the superstitiously minded is that it tops off a run of bad luck for Lord Wolfson, who is stepping down as chairman in May. Up until recently, he could do no wrong as far as

was hoping to go out, basking in the glow of a share price that had risen by a factor of 64 between 1991 and last month. Now he is bowing out on a profits warning. Meanwhile, with his GUS hat on, his bid for Metromail, an American database company, has become mired in legal difficulties, his £1.6bn offer for Argos, which had looked like a foregone conclusion, now seems more finely balanced. As any general will tell you, nobody fights on three

ing a little tired yesterday. With the premium on Next shares gone and with his departure from the company looming, perhaps he will now act on one of the stock market's favourite takeover rumours. Maybe, just maybe, he will dump Argos and launch a bid for Next instead.

British films need more help

ALL INDUSTRIES need to fight for attention, love and favour from ministers. but the film industry does rather seem to get more than its fair share. It even bas its own think-tank in the Department of Culture, the Film Policy Review Group, and Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, is constantly banging on about the need to do more to help.

It's easy to be cynical about the reasons for this, and no doubt there is a large element of the luvvie factor in it. So much easier to get in the door if you are Dick-

(£75bn).

the City was concerned and no doubt he in Attenborough, David Puttnam or Kenneth Branagh, than plain old Joe Bloggs of Amalgamated Widgets. But there are good reasons for it too. Despite Brit Pop and Cool Britannia, the UK has an entertainment trade deficit with the United States running to billions of dollars a year.

And despite our wealth of creative talent and expertise, film in Britain is still not much more than a cottage industry which struggles to compete against the big batallions of Hollywood, with its unparfronts and wins. No wonder he was lookalleled access to capital and huge investment in production, marketing and distribution. Even with a following wind, the British industry can never hope to catch up with the US, whose success springs from the unified culture of its vast domestic market. Language differences will stop that from ever being mirrored within the European Union. All the same, there's probably more that can be done to correct the balance.

The package of measures announced by Mr Smith this week are welcome enough, hut they are not going to make much of a difference. Normally, it would not be right to support any kind of industry specific subsidy, aid or tax break, hut in the case of film, this might just about be justified. As Mr Smith's policy unit has pointed out, the film industry has enormous potential for creating the sort of emplayment most of us have come to want and expect from the modern economy. The 100 per cent write off for film finance introduced in the July Budget was a step in the right direction, but by limiting the amount to £15m, the Treasury has ensured

budget foreign inspired movies cannot take advantage of it. It's time to do more.

Multinationals are not the villains

OF ALL the people in the Labour Government who might have been expected to resist the stampede towards hardheaded pragmatism, Clare Short must have topped the list. Against the herd, she's tried to remain a passionate idealist. Now even our Secretary of State for International Development seems to have swing behind the nasty capitalists. Yesterday she lent her support to research which concludes that the Multilateral Agreement on Investment would be in the interests of developing countries. Given that many aid and environmental organisations have remained fervently against this agreement, believing it to be a multinationals charter, this is quite a tutu up.

The MAI has proved an astonishingly contentious proposal for something that on the face of it seems entirely sensible. The MAI began life as a plan among member countries of the Organisation for Ecunomic Co-operation and Development the first world - for overseas investors to be treated in exactly the same way as domestic investors. The idea was to outlaw discrimination against foreign capital. which even in the developed world takes many and varied forms - local content rules for example. The controversy arose

a poor takeup and guaranteed that big from suggestions that developing countries should, in time, sign up too. This fired up a coalition of protests from aid agencies and environmental campaigners, who see multinationals as exploiters of the world's poor. They wanted to tag on to the MAI additional requirements for minimum labour and environmental standards.

There are good reasons for concern about Americanisation of the planel. The way things are going it's only a matter of time before MeDonalds open at Everest base camp. Titanic is already showing in Kerala in Southern India. Even so, poor countries are only going to become prosperous ones if they get the know-how and market access that big foreign investors bring. Any possibility of discrimination, and international capital will samply stay away. The trouble with the protesters and their stereotyped view of multinationals is that they would prevent the countries most in need of foreign expertise and capital from getting it.

These companies do not treat workers as well in the Third World as they do at home. But on the whole they pay higher wages, and show more concern for pollution, than local companies. Unpalatable as it might seem, these apparent villains are forces for improving standards.

The paper published by the Department for International Development seems finally to accept these arguments. Ms Short sympathises with the campaigners who rail against the harsh realitles of the world; but she has rightly decided to disagree with their conclusions. We all have to grow up one day, dim't we?

Sterling surge leads to deficit

By Diane Coyle Economics Editor

THERE WERE fresh signs of woe for Britain's manufacturers yesterday with figures suggesting the trade deficit yawning wider and a survey indicating that output is likely to remain stagnant.

Treasury officials, quizzed by . MPs yesterday, conceded that a manufacturing recession due to the strong pound was a "possibility", and that the exchange rate was a "matter of

Meanwhile, the pound edged higher yesterday after Bank of England's Monetary and imports both fell.

Policy Committee, said diminishing uncertainty about the single currency would help bring sterling down,

"This creates a definite risk to the inflation rate," he said in an interview with a Brussels. newspaper, although he added that the Asian crisis and tough Budget might have eased pressure for higher interest rates. Sterling ended a pfennig

higher, climbing above DM3.07. According to official figures, the deficit on trade in goods with the rest of the world amounted to £1.1bn in January, . down from £1.3bn in December and not quite as bad as ex-Willem Butter, a member of the pected. The value of exports

In the latest three months both export and import volumes, excluding oil and erratic items, have been broadly flat. The Office for National Statistics said the trends nevertheless suggest the deficit is widening, although the short-

fall with EU countries alone has

Figures for trade with non-EU countries in February painted a bleaker picture. The deficit jumped from £879m in January to £1.6bn, and the ONS said trade with South East Asia had deteriorated sharply.

Much of the near-doubling. during the month was due to one-off imports of salver and aircraft.

National Irish

IRISH police are examining undisclosed interest charges levied on customers without their knowledge or consent at branches of National Irish Bank (NIB). According to former employees, the unauthorised charges took the form of an interest rate loading, which ranged from £50 to £4,000 per customer. The practice occurred within five branches in the late 1980s and early 1990s. The bank said it would try to

INTEL CORP plans to elect Craig Barrett, current president and chief operating officer, as its next chief executive officer, succeeding longtime CEO Andrew Grove, who will continue working full time as chairman. The move, which Intel'a board will enact after the company's annual meeting on 20 May, marks the second switch in the giant chip maker's executive ranks in a year.

Unilever east

UNILEVER, the Angio-Dutch consumer products group, has hought a controlling stake in Russian margarine-maker Moskovsky Margarinovy Zavod for an undisclosed sum. The group plans spend £12m to develop the business.

Slimmer BTR

realised from disposals.

JAPAN'S ruling Liberal De-Budget boost for Nikkei mocratie Party yesterday announced a long-awaited economie stimulus package

amounting to 16 trillion yen

Taku Yamasaki, top poli-The size of the proposed cy-maker of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party, package surpassed expectasaid the party was considertions and was larger than the 14.22 trillion yen boost after ing use of public funds for the nation's bad loan problems and added 2 per cent to the hut the amount had not been

decided. Other details, including whether to cut income tax, would be subject to further talks with coalition part-

There was a cautious welcome from the US, which has been pressing Japan to take decisive action to prop up the ailing economy, on which South East Asia's economic health also depends.

Mr Yamasaki said the plan's two main pillars would be steps to dispose of bad loans and public works spending.

"We are considering the use of public funds but the scale of such action has not been decided," he said.

The package, later upproved by the coalition cabinet, will include the early implementation of 80 per cent or more of public works projects, the highest percentage

Wall's opts for all-year image

By Nigel Cope City Correspondent

WALLS, the ice cream company, is emharking on a massive overhaul of its image in an attempt to make its products less associated with summer and more appropriate for year round consumption.

Out goes the squirty writing on a sunny yellow background. In its place comes a new identity showing a pair of red and yellow intertwining hearts. This, the company says, is more representative of the "feelings of happiness associated with sharing Wall's ice cream with family and friends" regardless of the time of year.

Wall's, which is part of the Unilever food group, is changing the image on newsagents' fridges and signs up and down the country as well as on vans and the product range, which includes Magnum and Solero. The new look will also be rolled out across the world. The re-branding of 100,000



The new logo (top) and the old



ice cream outlets in the UK will take until the year 2000 to complete. Around £15m will be spent on television advertising. Wall's, which has 31 per

cent of the UK ice cream market, has used the same logo since the 1980s although the "signature" has been part of the image since the company was founded 76 years ago.

The new logo has been designed by London design agency Carter Wong & Partners which declined to disclose its fee .

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INTEL's man

BTR has sold Metal Building Components to US-based NCI Building Systems for £333m, all hut completing a disposal program designed to slim down the once sprawling conglomerate into a pure engineering company. BTR said it would make a £25m profit on the sale, after taking a charge to account for goodwill of £185m. The sale raises to £3.7bn what BTR has



The Group: assets exceed £56bn

- ▶ 1997 was an exceptional year. Significant progress was made in each of our markets. Over the past two years, Group assets under management increased by £12bn to more than £56bn and total new premiums Increased by 65% to £3.3bn.
- With unrivalled financial strength, low costs and substantial investment expertise, we are determined to maintain an excellent record of consistently good with profit performance for the benefit of present and future policyholders.

United Kingdom: new premiums exceed £2.1bn

- Total new business premiums rose sharply following exceptional growth in 1996. An increase of 45% in regular premium new business was particularly encouraging.
- ▶ We have maintained our 'Triple A' ratings from both Standard & Poor's and Moody's, a distinction which we share with only a handful of other life companies in the world.
- Our continuing improvement in the quality of our products and service was recognised by Independent Financial Advisers who voted us 'IFA Company of the Year' for the second consecutive year.

Canada: new business increased by 33%

 Sales of group products were particularly buoyant. Our capacity to service this market has been considerably enhanced by

the major investments made in recent years in improved administration systems.

Republic of Ireland: good annual and single premium growth

 Annual premium new business increased by 20% and single premium. business by almost 50%.

Spain: new business increased by 30%

Prosperity, our Spanish subsidiary, had another successful year new business premiums increased by 30%. A non-life company which offers general insurance products was established

Germany: good progress

▶ We opened our office in Frankfurt 21 months ago. We now receive business from over 150 brokers - including Germany's largest - and are confident that we will increase our share of the market.

People's Republic of China & India

- In China, we continue with the work necessary to obtain an operating licence soon. We received permission to open a second Representative Office.
- The Indian Government is yet to liberalise the insurance market, but we continue to work with our joint venture partner to develop an infrastructure which will enable us to operate in this market when legislation permits.

The Annual Report and Accounts, including the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting to be held on Tuesday 28 April, will be available from Monday 30 March. Policyholders may obtain a copy by writing to the Customer Information Team at PO 80x 141, 1 Tanfield, Edinburgh EH3 5RG or by telephoning 0845 60 60 070. Proxy forms may be similarly obtained by members entitled to vote.

Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. These highlights are for the year ended at 15 November 1997. The Standard Life Assurance Company is a mutual company registered in Scotland (no SZ4) Head Office, Standard Life House, 30 Lothian Road, Edinburgh. Tel: 0131 225 2552. The Standard Life marketing group includes Standard Life Pension Funds Limited*† Standard Life Trust Management Limited*†.

*Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority. †Regulated by iMRO.



THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY ANDREW YATES

Dialog may soon start to deliver

YOU have to hand it to Dan Wagner. In four years, the whizz-kid chief executive of Dialog -- the company formerly known as MAID - has turned what was a minnow in the media business to the world market leader in providing electronic information to companies.

Sadly, Dialog's sharebolders bave yet to see the benefits. Over the course of its turbulent stock market life, Dialog has just about performed in line with the rest of the market. Certainly that is no disaster, but not quite the returns expected from sucb a supposedly fast-growing

The deal that secured Dialog's market position was the £261m reverse takeover of Knight-Ridder Information late last year.

That gave Dialog control of a database containing some 6 billioo pages of text - more information than is currently available on the World Wide Web.

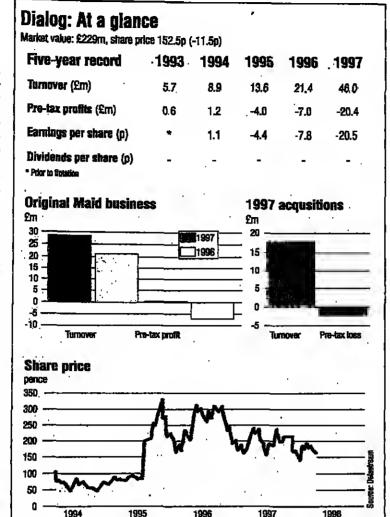
The logic of the deal was fairly simple. First, Dialog would shave US\$35m off the cost base. Theo, by using its existing sorting technology, it will try to get existing Knight-Ridder customers to make more use of the database.

So far, Mr Wagner is as good as his word. Full-year 1997 profit figures, released yesterday, were meaningless because they included just six weeks of the KRI acquisition. However, the cost savings have all been made and forward PE ratio of less than 10. KRI's declining sales - the legacy of neglect by its previous owners - re- sbares are cheap. But until Mr versed, A peripheral business should Wagner delivers, the questioo marks be sold sooo, raising at least \$20m remain. (£12m).

That said, the jury is still out. Dialog chose to fund a large chunk One of the few. of the KRI deal with debt, leaving it coveoants oo its balance sheet. The key to paying that off and getting the company back ooto an even keel is to squeeze sales growth out of KRI.

Given that the costs of maintaining the database are largely fixed, a large proportion of any additional revenue Dialog can generate will come straight through as profit.

Through forecasts are largely guesswork, analysts have pencilled in profits of about £24m for the coming year, which would put Dialog shares, down 11.5p yesterday to 152.5p, on a group.



If Dialog can hit that targets, the

with \$180m of junk bonds with scary and worth having

NO ONE seems quite sure how to treat Singer & Friedlander. If you check its ness. share price it is rather unhelpfully grouped under "other financials". Journalists tend to prefer the more nostalgic "one of the last independent British banks", despite the fact that banking accounts for only around a fifth of profits. Others plump for the functional but unwieldy "banking, broking, investment and asset management"

Many in the City view Singer & Friedlander as a glorified stockbroker. True; stockbroking accounted for the in costs. vast majority of the group's annual profits in 1997. The group made a total profit of £55m in the year to December, before tax and exceptionals. Around

But to focus purely oo the group's broking division is a disservice to its other activities, in particular its burgeoning asset management busl-

stockbroking.

Perhaps the best description of the company is "a financial services opportunist". Singer's key strength in recent years has been its ability to snap up good value companies in the financial sector and integrate them suc- all cylinders. cessfully into the group.

The group's investment in the Nordic broker Carnegie is a case in the shares on a prospective p/e ratio point. Singer bought a controlling of 11. Good value.

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stake in the broker -- dubbed the "Cazeoove of Scandinavia" - three years ago. Since then, Carnegie has enjoyed phenomenal success -- its operating profits were up more than 80 per cent last year to £32.7m.

The shares closed yesterday at 184p, up 3p, and brokers' estimates put the company on a forward PE of around 12.5. This looks good value given the group's potential both as an acquirer - Singer is currently thought to be on the acquisition trail in the UK fund management sector - and an acquiree -- the group would make a good catch for the big boys of the investment banking world. Buy.

Beazer looks good value

BEAZER, the UK's third largest housebuilder, has a right to feel peeved that its share price fell 9.5p to 214p yesterday even though it announced a 32 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £31.4m for the six months to December.

No doubt the fact that it failed to smash analysts' forecasts like Barratt did 24 hours had something to do with it bot it still produced results in line with expectations.

Highlighting growing planning delays which are causing land prices to escalate hardly helped its case, but the group is out unique in facing these problems and it still managed to grow operating margins by more than 2 percentage points to 12.2 per ceot. And its loog land bank should give extra insurance against a future rise

A sharp rise in the house building sector in recent mooths has also prompted investors to consider tucking away some profits.

three-quarters of this derived from However Beazer, like Barratt, has ooe of the most respected management teams in the sector which makes it a more attractive bet that most.

> Beazer's completions rose 12 per ceot and selling prices were up 4 per cent, and the group should be able to maintain this sort of growth rate for the next few years. Charles Church, its recently ac-

> quired upmarket housebuilder, bas been restructured and is now firing on Broker Williams de Broe forecasts current year profits of £74m, putting

Granada set to give ground on Savoy sale

By Andrew Yates

THE SALE of Savoy Group, the nomarket hotelier, could still go ahead despite resistance way, according to industry from some members of the Wontner family, which owns a substantial stake in the group.

Granada, the media and leisure giant, is preparing to cave in to pressure from the Wontners and give them a bigger share of the spoils in order to save the deal. Gerry Robinson, Granada's

dig his heels in over the relative valuations put on the Savoy's B shares, which command more voting rights, and the lower-voting A shares.

Granada owns 68 per cent of the A shares but only 42 per cent of the voting rights. Mr Robinson had wanted to see the B shares valued at about two times the A shares. However advisers working oo bebalf of the family trusts wanted the Bs val-

Now Mr Robinson is willing to return to the negotiating table and meet the family half

sources, which could lead to the Bs being valued at around four to five times the Bs If the two sides can thrash out a deal it will greatly enhance the chances of a sale, with bid-

ders aiready lining up to buy the

Lady Woniner, whose agreement is crucial to any deal, has chairman, had been willing to previously expressed reservations about a sale. However, she is understood to be willing to go ahead with the deal as long as the family can achieve what it deemed to be a fair share of the

> Other family members, including Julian Wontner and his brother Giles, bave reportedly spoken out against the deal. Nevertheless the final decisioo deal lies with the trustees of the family and charitable holdings,

ued at six to seven times the As. who could still press ahead with a sale despite a split within the Wootner clan.

Blackstone, the New York based investment bank, is still the front-runner to buy the Savoy, which also owns the Berkeley, the Connaught and Claridge's. It has indicated it is willing to pay £520m for the group and has teamed up with Bill Johnson, former chief executive of the Ritz-Carlton & hotel chain

Negotiations are continuing and ceotre oo whether the bid for the group should include or exclude the millions of pounds the group plans to pay out in dividends. The Savoy A shares rose 10p to 1675p yesterday on renewed bopes of a sale.

Blackstone bas yet to table a firm offer or embark on due diligence of the Savoy group. This could be a long drawn out process. Any sale will also have to be agreed at an extraordinary general meeting.

BAe raises £764m in sale of Orange shares

By Michael Harrison

BRITISH Aerospace yesterday raised £764m by selling the bulk of its holding in Orange, the mobile phone operator, in an institutional placing.

The deal will not BAe a profit of about £700m on its original investment and leave it with a 5 per cent shareholding worth a further £235m. BAe sold 193m shares - 16.11 per cent of Orange - to SBC Warburg at 395.75p a share. The shares were in turn offered at 399p.

The company had been widely expected to sell down its Orange holding and was persuaded to go ahead after assurances from SBC Warburg that the placing would not damage Orange. Itsshare price ended the day 26p lower at 392p.

BAe originally held a 31.5 per cent stake in Orange alongside Hutchison Whampon of Hong Kong. Its investment in Orange peaked at £320m but the bulk of this was recouped in 1996 when Orange floated at 205p a share and BAe sold down just under 10 per cent of its shareholding raising £245m.

BAe said it would realise an exceptional profit before tax of £368m on yesterday's sale since the shares were held in its books at the flotation price.

Graham Howe, Orange finance director, said the sale would increase the liquidity of Orange shares substantially.

Takeover talks boost Northern Leisure

By Andrew Yates

SHARES in Northern Leisure, the fast growing nightclub owner, leapt 65p to 582.5p yesterday after the group admitted it was in takeover talks. However the ideotity of the potential bidder remams unknown.

Rank, the biggest nightclub owner in the country, is not behind the bid approach, industry sources say. First Leisure, run by Michael Grade, the former media mogul, is also thought unlikely to make a bid.

Pub groups such as Bass, Whithread and Ailied-Domecq are believed to have ruled themselves out, raising the prospect that a buyer outside the industry may have begun talks with Northern Leisure.

Northern Leisure's share price has risen rapidly over the past few years as it has successfully expanded its nightclub estate.

The group is now valued at almost £350m, although any bidder will have to offer more than that to be sure of capturing the company.

Nick Oppenheim, chairman, said: "Given the company's prospects it will have to be a generous offer to secure our recommendation."

Northern Leisure is accelerating its acquisition programme, having earmarked at least £30m to open more than 15 sites a year.

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A one day national conference for policy makers in higher and further education to look at the Implementation of the Government's proposals on the creation of a University for Industry. It will examine the role that further and higher education institutions can play by working together and with business at a local, regional and national level increasing the skills and knowledge of the workforce, as well as supporting research and development in industry and commerce.

Speakers Include:

Dr Kim Howells MP. Parliamentary Under Secretary, DFEE

Rosie Boycott, Editor, The independent and The Independent on Sunday

David Brown.

Chairman, Motorola Ltd and Chair, UFI Design and Implementation Advisory Group

Josh Hillman, Institute for Public Policy Research

Simon Sperryn. Chief Executive, London Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Diana Warwick,

Chief Executive, Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals

Dr Anne Wright CBE.

Vice-Chancellor and Chief Executive, University of Sunderland

DELEGATE FEES 98 A - 787 Total £229.13 apported Rate strain - 1-1 Total \$164.50

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For more information, please contact

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Bulmer leaps further on rumours of French interest

MARKET REPORT



PETER THAL LARSEN

mous with sliding share against making an offer.

In recent years, the market for cider has been shrinking relentlessly. Facing the dual temptations of alcopops and cheap imported beer in supermarkets, British boozers have increasingly decided to leave cider on the shelf.

The result is that shares in all the quoted cider makers have more or less haived in the past 12 months. Until Tuesday, that is, when shares almost 40 per cent since the in HP Bulmer took a sudden shares peaked at 626p early uncharacteristic leap. They uncharacteristic leap. They last year, they might now be points at 5905.6. did the same yesterday, clos-more willing to listen to some. The biggest vo ing the day up 26p at 381p. A month ago, they were 310p.

According to well-informed market sources, French drinks giant Pernod

conjure up warm images of is responsible for tipples infarmers, orchards and the cluding Strongbow, Woodtalking to an investor, in look at rivals Matthew Clark which case cider is synony- and Merrydown, but decided

> Previous predators have always been deterred by the Bulmer family's large shareholding in the company. which means that they could block any deal they didn't like. Various family members between them have 23 per cent of the company, and have shown no sign of wanting to sell out.

However, having seen the value of their holding fall by one who offered them a decent price.

A massive profit warning from Next yesterday dumped the retailer down a massive

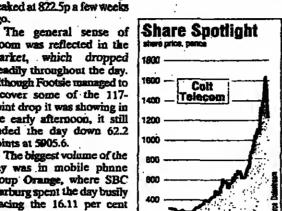
MENTION cider, and you slide rule over Bulmer, which most of the other retailers tutional shareholders. War- than the 193 million SBC 451 after it unveiled plans 10 down with it. Marks & burg paid just under 396p for Warburg started the day with, sell and float off peripheral Spencer lost 16.5p to 603p the shares, and initially suc- although market sources said rolling hills of the West Coun- pecker and Scrumpy Jack, while DFS dropped 18p to ceeded in keeping the market the broker had also successtry. Unless you happen to be Pernod has already had a 344.5p. Arcadia, down 22p at price around 400p. 464p and House of Fraser,

> suffered: poor trading intensified. The the day, 143.88 million shares peaked at 822.5p a few weeks

gloom was reflected in the market, which dropped steadily throughout the day. Although Footsie managed to recover some of the 117point drop it was showing in the early afternoon, it still ended the day down 62.2

The biggest volume of the day was in mobile phone group Orange, where SBC Warburg spent the day busily placing the 16.11 per cent stake it had taken over from

As the day wore on, how-7.5p lighter at 162.5p, also ever, the broker found itself with spare stock and a num-JJB Sports continued its ber of large trades went recent slide as rumours of through at 395p. At the end of



fully placed blocks of shares

with investors in the US. Orange shares ended the day down 21.5p at 397p, while in bid talks. Meanwhile engi-BAe added 3p to 2005p.

Telecom stocks continued 30p on a profit warning. The their recent retreat as shares, 37.5p lighter at 635p, had been traded. That was less takeover hopes faded. Local loop operator Cost Telecom, a former bid favourite, was slammed down 90p to 1242.5p. The stock peaked at 1630p earlier this month. BT was 16p lighter at 634p while Cable & Wireless gave up the previous day's gains to close at 735p, down 19p.

Media stocks were in demand. Capital Radio continstill high. Analysts said the firm could now be a bid target.

UK Safety eased 0.75p to ued its recent surge, firming 18.5p to 718.5p. Television group Cariton was up 11p at 3.75p. The protective clothing 460p and BSkyB added 5,25p group is on the receiving end

Security group Williams was the best performing Foot- and is only surviving with

TAKING STOCK

businesses, as well to return

Disco group Northern

Leisure boogied up 65p to

582.5p after revealing it was

near Place dropped 10p to

shares were over 120p less

rectors gave a boost to North-

ern irish group Powerscreen,

up 40.5p at 236.5p. The shares

had shimped from 762.5p to

196p after a profit warning

which sparked allegations that

the two knew of problems at

a subsidiary before they issued

new shares when the price was

of a 2.5p a share bid from a

management buyout team.

The departure of two di-

than six mouths ago.

ON AIM, Albemarie & Bond firmed 2.5p to 55p. The pawabroking group recently saw its Texas rival Excorp take a 29.96 per cent stake just below the level requiring a formal bid. Albermarie executives are reteting their US counterparts over the Easter weekend to find out what their intentions are.

FOUNTAIN Forestry dropped 6.5p to 161p on AIM. The shares, floated at 75p late last year, had soared to 187.5p earlier in the month helped by the fact that they qualify for reinvestment tax relief. However the imminent abolition of the tax break has prompted investors to rethink the stock's merits.

STRIPTEASE club operator Cherokee Leisure, quoted on Ofer, is opening an outlet in Birmingham. The club, to be called Cherokee at Club 64, will open its doors to punters on April 3. Cherokee already has two other chibs. The

Rica	and is currently running its 173.5p at 544p and dragge	d British Aerospace with insti-	200 MAMJJASONDJFM sie sł	hare with a 24.5p rise to help from	Bank of Scotland. shares eased 2p to 19p.
St week, High Low Stack: Price Cleg Yld PECCode ALICANHOSIC Berverages 65 481 Alead Downs 581.0 ~4.50 4.1 5.2 800 4.9 8.8 86 80 82 S Memorph 17) 39 86 ~28.00 4.9 8.8 86 80 82 S Memorph 17) 39 86 ~28.00 4.9 8.8 86 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 80 80	10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	7 6. 46 7 2 mc Cr Ear 90.00 - 1.50 04 - 240 0 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6 6	18 17 18 18 18 18 18 18	Marie 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 10	Fice Data staring earner where stated. The yield is the latest twelve months' declared grow discussing earner where stated. The priceleterings (PE) ratio is the shareprice it year's certaing per share, excluding extraordinary learns hat including exceptorate. It year's certaing per share, excluding extraordinary learns hat child georgetorate at the sheemberg Generics. Rependent Teleshare = Tel. 0891 = 201 200 To access Real-Time Share Prices, 24 hours a day, call 6991 = 261 260. In access Real-Time Share Prices, 24 hours a day, call 6991 = 261 260. In access Real-Time Share Price by loying * plus a 4-dight todd from a this page. In this page.
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Soaring wage bill hits profits at Tottenham

TOTTENHAM Hotspur's wage bill has soared as the football club struggles to avoid relegation from the Premier League. Star signings, such as David Ginola and Les Ferdinand, have caused the club's expenses to jump by a third to £7.5m to the six months to January.

Spiralling wages meant Tottenham's operating profits remained flat at £7.4m despite a sharp rise in television income from a new contract with BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster.

Wage costs are due to rise even higher io the second balf. A spate of receot signings including Jurgeo Klinsman, the German international striker from Sampdoria, Moussa Saib, the Algerian midfielder who joined from Valencia for £2.5m, and Nicola Berti, the Italian midfielder signed from Inter Milan, will push annual player the £15m mark. The club has by up to 10 per cent. also been forced to install a new

coaching team to replace deincluding his successor Christian Gross from Grasshopper Zurich, and David Pleat as director of football.

nance director, said yesterday: "We have basically doubled our wages by adding new players. We believe these costs are necessary to fight off relegation."

Tottenham is currently fourth from bottom in the Premiership and faces a dramatic slump in profits if fails to stave off relegation. The club estimates it will lose at least £3m in television income as a member

of Nationwide Division One. Sales of replica shirts and club merchandise have already suffered from the club's poor league form. Mr Sedgwick also pointed out that the demand for sportswear looks to have peaked, with suppliers left with spare stock on their hands. He believes and match expenses well over that the market is bound to fall

However Tottenham be-

lieves its merchandise sales parting manager Gerry Francis, could double, or even triple, if it can survive the drop and make it to the top three in the Premiership next season.

Alan Sugar, Tottenham's John Sedgwick, Spurs' fi- chairman, had been looking at making acquisitions abroad and forming partnerships with foreign clubs. Those plans have takeo a back seat until the club's Premiership fate has been decided. Tottenham is also unlikely to follow the lead of Manchester United and set up its own TV channel.

Tottenham's pre-tax profits fell to £4m (£6m) reflecting a sharp rise in transfer fees to £3.4m. Gate receipts edged up to £8.8m (£8.7m) but should get a fillip from the opening of a new North Stand which will increase the capacity of the ground to 36,500. Tottenham's shares rose 2p to 70p yesterday but have almost halved in value since peaking in 1997.

Spurs face a crucial showdown with fellow strugglers Crystal Palace this weekend.



Expensive: Signings like Jurgen Klinsman mean wage costs are due to rise even higher in the second half

Further £3.6m legal | Flare Group shares plunge as bill for Queens Moat it revises forecasts downwards

By Andrew Yates

QUEENS Moat Houses, the hotelier embroiled in a lengthy legal battle with its former management team, said the case bad cost the group £3.6m last year on top of a £1.1m legal

bill in 1996. Andrew Coppel, QMH's chief executive, said be remained confident of winning the High Court case against John Bairstow, former chairman of the group, and three other ex- markets. directors who are claiming wrongful dismissal. He said

behind the group. The legal action harks back of its portfolio. to the early 1990s when QMH almost collapsed under a mountain of debt as the hotel mar- £810m during the year, but is oo

slashed. The rise in litigation costs caused QMH's expense to rise 50 per cent to £9.4m.

Even so QMH unveiled a rise in underlying pre-tax profits of £19.6m (£4.6m) thanks to a strong recovery in the UK hotel market.

QMH is considering selling its 11 hotels in France and Belgium which have a book value of around £40m in an effort to reduce debts and concentrate its resources oo other European

It has also put "for sale" sign over four botels in Germany most of the legal costs were now and ooe in Switzerland as the group completes the shake-up

The group reduced its debt mountain from £933m to

about a quarter of their value yesterday after the building revising its estimate of pre-tax profit for the year eoded 31 December downwards from £750,000-£1.25m to between £100,000 and £200,000.

bas cootinued to be affected by the economic situatioo in Asia and by the strength of sterling in the last quarter of 1997. The shares fell 10p to close at 30p.

ket plunged into recession and oearer to arranging a debt for similarly affected our busi-

It said it had already takeo active measures to reduce materials company said it was costs in all areas of the busioess. The strategy of cooceo-

trating oo specific ooo-Asian

markets has beguo to take

Flare Group

share price, pence

It said the group's positioo

"The warm winter adversely affected the group's heater brick business and reported results from others in the ceramics industry are evidence of difficulties being experieoced by many of our principal customers, which

> 63.50 (79700 8400 (9890 27,600 18630 9845 4717 2034 1998 200,41 200,41

SHARES io Flare Group lost quarter," Flare Group said. . effect and the group is seeing an eocouraging level of poteotial business, it said.

It said it expected, later in the year, to lauoch several oew consumable products which have considerable poteotial both in terms of market size and reveoue in 1999 and beyood.

Last November, shares in Flare fell sharply wheo it issued a profits warning, saying that because of "exceptional" economic conditions in Asia, it. had revised down its expectations for pre-tax profits io 1997 to betweeo £750,000 and £1.25m.

The group will report its results late oext mooth. The company's shares have collapsed from a recent peak of 149.5p last April.

PEOPLE & **BUSINESS**

IOHN WILLCOCK



SIR GRAEME ODGERS has been appointed a non-executive director of Southern Electric, his first oew job since stepping down as chairman of the Monopolies and Mergers Commission last December. Sir Graeme said last year that he was leaving the MMC in order to get back into business before it was too late

to rack up a reasonable pension. Southern Electric, the only independent British-owned electricity company, has also appointed Bruce Farmer as chairman-designate, to succeed Ken Coates oo 1 April. Dr Farmer is currently chairman and was recently chief executive of Morgan Crucible.

Sir Graeme bas a lengthy and distinguished CV. He was chief executive of Alfred McAlpine from 1990 until joining the MMC in 1993. He was managing director of British Telecom from 1986 to 1990, and before that finance director and then managing director of Tarmac. Sir Graeme also had spells with GEC and the DTI. No doubt some more nonexec posts are on the way.

GARY SMITH has snatched Keith Bradshaw from the world of oursing homes to become non-executive chairman of Winchester Entertamment, the film and TV company Mr

Smith founded five years ago. Mr Smith has been seeking to split his role as chairman and chief executive for some time, and reckons recruiting someone with Mr Bradshaw's experience is quite a coup. Mr Bradcompany, which he started from soratel in 1979, to Bupa for £270th.

Mr Smith says: "We're growing fairly quickly so Keith's a good person to have, with his experience of managing a growing company. He's got good contacts in the City as well."

Winchester is listed on AIM and scored a hit last year with the film Shooting Fish, a comedy which has grossed \$12m world-wide so far. It opens in the US soon. The company. based in Kingly Street in Soho, London, also makes children's TV programmes.

work on the film finance side. As part of the round. First prize went to Lazard Brothers.

deal Mr Bradshaw has bought 9 per cent of Winchester's shares for just under £1 m, leaving Mr Smith as the company's biggest shareholder with a 26 per ceot stake.

THERE'S ONE thing worse than a Scotsman and an Englishman having a scrap, and that's two Scotsmeo baving a feud. And over "principles of accountancy", of all things.

Ron Paterson, head of Ernst & Young's technical services department and author of "UK GAAP" (doo't ask), has loosed off yet another broadside at fellow Scot Sir David Tweedie, head of the Accounting Standards Board, over the ASB's long-awaited "Statement of Principles."

Sir David first issued a draft of his principles over three years ago, prompting Mr Paterson to lead a campaign to have them drastically altered. Yesterday Mr Patersoo issued a paper titled "Time for Action", which demanded the immediate publication of Sir David's latest proposals. The paper came with an accompanying statement which asked:

Why are we waiting?" Perhaps they should just decide it with pistols at 12 paces.

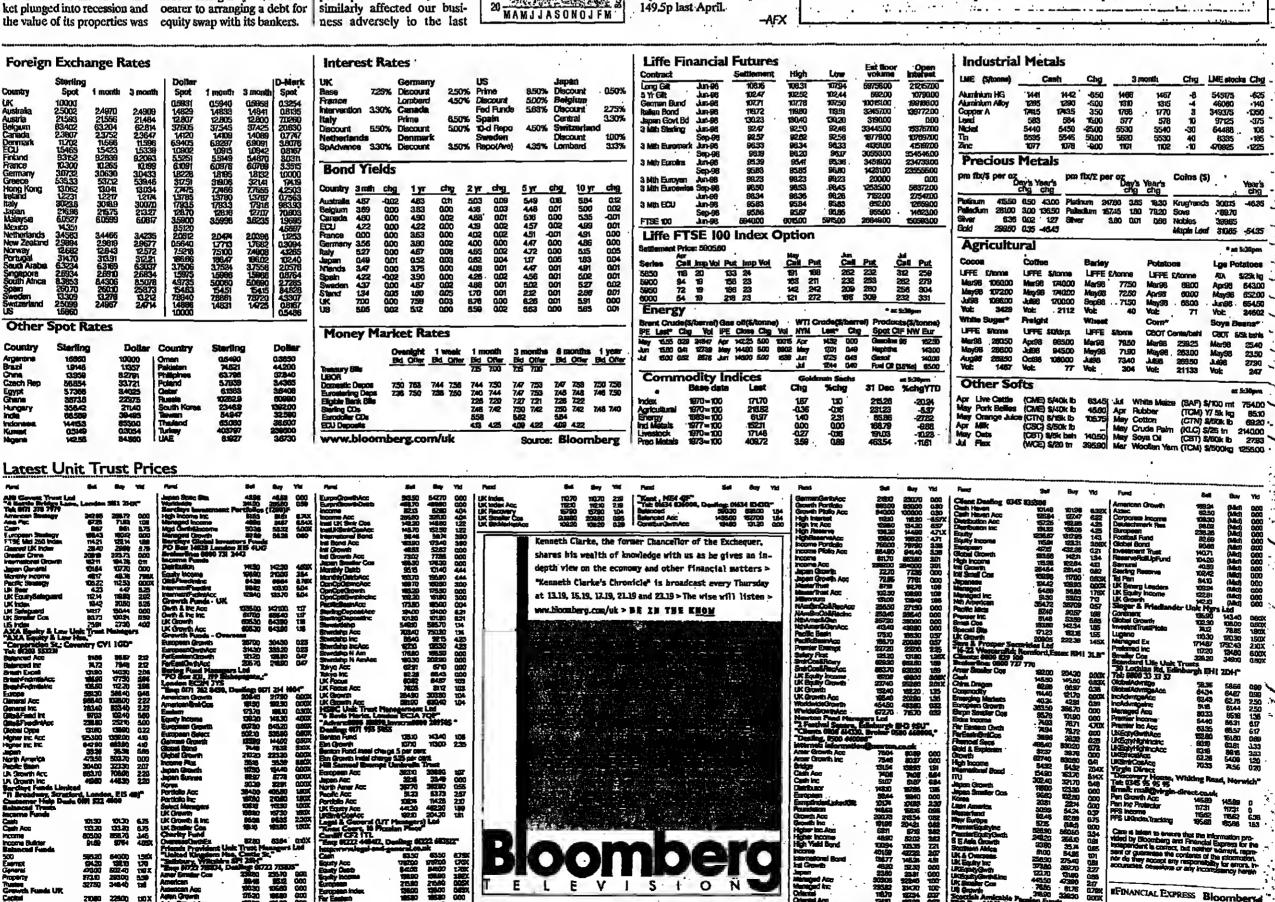
CAMBRIDGE University's Business School is breaking out with a oew lecturer for prisoo studies. And oo, this does not mean courses for white collar criminals in how to while away the bours at Ford Opeo Prisoo.

Allan Webster is joining the appropriately oamed Judge Institute of Management Studies as a part-time lecturer in public sector management. His job will be to enable senior prison officers to "develop a strategic approach to leadership". Mr Webster arrives amongst the glittering spires with plenty of experience, not least from his time as a senior governor in the Scottish Prisoo Service. Anyooe thinking of skiving off lectures, beware.

GREENWICH NatWest, the global debts market divisioo of NatWest, has made a number of appointments in sales and trading. Avril Pomper joins as a director and head of Swiss credit sales, from Paribas Capital Markets. Natasha Jacobs, also from Paribas, joins as assistant director of Swiss credit sales. Roberta Cristino becomes director responsible for Italian sales from Societe Generale, while Mina Namba joins Greenwich Nat West in Tokyo as a credit trader from CSFB.

Andrew McGuire bas beco appointed dishaw recently sold his Takare marsing home -rector responsible for eurodollar trading, joining from Deutsche Morgan Grenfell. And finally, Duncan Sankey Joins as a director and head of credit research.

CITY LAWYERS aren't all hard-hearted blocks of ice after all. Herbert Smith, the City firm, has raised £1,800 for Macmillan Cancer Relief by hosting a charity quiz night for. bankers in the Square Mile. A dozen teams of City banks, each joined by members of Herbert Smith's corporate finance department, competed in seven gruelling rounds of gen-Mr Smith says Mr Bradshaw will mostly eral knowledge questions and a marathoo



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صكنا من الاعل

Liffe cuts fees as battle with Frankfurt escalates

THE LONDON International Financial Futures and Options Exchange (Liffe) has sparked off another round in "the battle of the exchanges" by cutting its prices in a move designed to claw back market share from arch-rival DTB, the electronic exchange based in Frankfurt.

its financial futures and options products, in an attempt to encourage "addi- action fees - the details of which were tional usage" of Liffe's products, amounced yesterday. according to Daniel Hodson, the exchange's chief executive.

From 1 April, the transaction charges for all financial futures and options contracts - excluding the Euroyen futures contract - will be reduced to 25p per lot per Japanese bank, have scaled down their side. Previously, the rate for financial futures was 42p and for financial options 27p.

COMPANY RESULTS

70.5m (-)

6.1m (-)

264.8m (227.4m) 31.4m (23.8m) 8.0p (5.8p) 2.3p (2.1p)

32.65m (29.31m) 2.51m (1.41m) 27.6p (18.3p) 7.5p (5.0p)

508.3m (564.0m) 27.3m (24.1m) 36.6p (38.0p) 11.2p (10.2p)

14.91m (12.16m) 3.43m (2.71m) -8.32p (8.47p) 5.8p (4.83p)

12.33m (15.75m) 1.39m (0.680m) 4.57p (3.15p) 2.0p (1.8p)

88.48m (73.44m) 4.86m (3.57m) 11.84p (7.64p) 5.1p (4.2p)

6.82m (4.58m) 0.813m (0.552m) 8.29p (6.44p) 1.3p

ts(F) 166m (132.8m) 17.5m (16.9m) 6.73p (6.58p) 2.8p (2.5p)

18.5m (10.3m)

46.08m (21.44m) -1.88m (-7.03m) -2.17 (-7.82p) til

43.81m (40.32m) 6.266m (6.30m) 9.25p (9.70p) 3.60p

107.6m (98.14m) 16.97m (11.66m) 21,3p (15.6p) 4.5p

3.56m (2.44m) 0.24m (0.325m) 0.08p (8.2p) nil

12.33en (15.12m) 0.759m (-0.352m) 2.8p (-0.3p) ni

JR239m (126m). 1923.7m (10.8m). 14.2p (7.3p) . . 1.12p

39,0m (22,1m) 4,98m (4.41m) 12.2p (11.2p) 5.2p (4.6p)

20.29m (22.80m) 4.03m (1.84m) 12.59p (5.26p) 2.0p (1.85p)

812.0m (781.4m) 29.0m (38.4m) 9.4p (-11.9p) 5.5p (5.5p)

32.4m (30.1m) 3.6m (3.63m) 10.3p (9.0p) 2.4p (2.1p)

75.1m (72.6m) 10.5m (8.77m) 19.86p (16.77p) 7.9p (7.1p)

37.2m (46.3m) 1.18m (1.23m) 3.4p (3.3p) 3.1p

12.44m (7.91m) 1.70m (1.16m) 29.5p (15.4p) 7.5p

4.55m (1.72m) 1.44m (-0.351m) 8.9p (-3.0p) 0.5p

2.04tm (2.37ba) 179.0m (-190m) 24.6p (22.4p) *14.5p (14.1p)

138.2m (189.0m) 98.2m (75.5m) 15.7p (12.0p) 9.53p 9.0p

2.77bo (2.66km) 115.2m (10.5m) 8.0p (0.4p) 5.65p (5.5p)

924.2m (718.2m) 28.2m (23.8m) 41.0p (35.8p) 18.5p (17.2p)

19.5m (17.7m) 4.02m (6.03m) 5.5p (7.0p) 0.33p (0.33p)

18.17m (18.08m) 1.28m (0.602m) 7.69p (3.58p) 3.0p (2.0p)

367.2m (383.6m) 38.05m (36.45m) 24.4p (22.7p) 10.0p 9.0p

-2.58m (121m) -8.9p (8.34p) all

54.1m (56.6m) 13.32p (18.45p) 5.36p

1.18bn (946,86n) 184,0m (158,8m) 38,5p 31,5p 18.0p (15.0p)

59.8m (35.2m) 4.92m (3.03m) 15.68p (10.3p) 2.25p (1.75p)

386,3m (311.2m) 34.1m (24.8m)

28.02m (37.09m) 1.15m (1.0m)

83.2m (51.7m) 24.6m (14.4m)

17.87m (7.31m) 5.08m (1.49m)

179.3m (159.7m) 7.68m (5.22m)

55.4m (50.07m) 8.61m (9.27m)

newaltyn Technologicu (F)3.3m (1.4m) -5.6m (-4.0m) -16.1p (-13.1p) nll

Bernard Matthews (F) 371.8m (354.9m) - 12.2m (22.8m) - 6.06p (12.69p) 4.3p (4.1p)

Oneset Most Houses (F) 394.8m (449.8m) 35.0m (15.0m) 8.4p (4.2p) nil

West Bromwick Albino (1) 4.23m (3.40m) 0.443m (0.301m) 3.02p (4.53p) nit

Whitelesholm Mark (F) 83,95m (78,75m) 7.57m (5.51m) 62.5p (44.9p) 27.0p

This formal active is insued in compliance with the requirements of, and has been approved by, the London Stock Exchange Limited ("the London Stock Exchange"). Application has been made to the London Stock Exchange for the Ordinary Income Shares and Zero been made to the Pitteing, to be admissed Dividend Preference Shares, issued and to be issued parament to the Pitteing, to be admission of in the Official List of the London Stock Exchange. It is expound that such admission become effective and that dealings in the Ordinary Income Shares and Zero Dividend Preference Shares will commence separately on 3 Agril 1996. This adventionant does not constitute an offer or invitation to any poster to subscribe for or to purchase securities.

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PLACING HOARE GOVETT CORPORATE FINANCE LIMITED

of up to
40,000,000 Ordinary Income Shares of 25p each at a
Placing Price of 100p per share

40,000,000 Zero Dividend Preference Shares of 25p each at a Placing Price of 101p per share both payable in full on application

SHARE CAPITAL FOLLOWING ADMISSION

of 25p each Zero Dividend Prefe Shares of 25p each

Amount Number
Ordinary Income Shares £10,000,000 40,000,000

£10,000,000 40,000,000

4.1m (7.2m)

(F) - Final (I) - Imarko. " EPS is pre-succeptionals

33.1m (33.4m) 3.2m (3.9m)

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Chartest (1)

contord (F)

BLP Group (F)

cidport (I)

Artist Fillings (F)

Charater East (F)

Status Cards (1)

sessoner (F)

Dialog Corp (F)

DCS Group (F)

clines blinds (F)

Singer & Friedlander (F) - (-)

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A GOLDENS

The move is part of a concerted camnign by the exchange to reassert itself in the competitive European market.

Two weeks ago, Liffe announced the main results of a wide-ranging review of its strategic direction. The key proposal was the decision to develop an electronic trading system by the end of next year which will operate alongside Liffe is to cut its transaction fees on its traditional "open outcry" system. The exchange also said it would cut trans-

> Liffe has lost market share to electronic exchanges recently, particularly DTB. Large players appear to be increasingly disaffected with the exchange both Lloyds TSB and Nikko, the

Especially galling for Liffe has been

10.0p (7.0p) 3.3p (3.0p)

1.9p (1.42p) 9.8p (0.75p)

5.3p (3.6p) n3

8.82p (10.8p) 4.0p (4.0p)

9.32p (5.86p) 3.0p (2.05p)

8.7p (8.7p) 5.75p (5.5p)

18.1p (19.5p) 6.7p (6.0p)

tigious German bond (Bund) contract. change Last month, Liffe's share of the 10-year Bund futures market sank to 39 per cent, down from 70 per cent a year ago.

verts in a number of UK national newselectronic system at Liffe for free.

Liffe was not amused. The DTB systionality we require," remarked Jack Wrigglesworth, Liffe's chairman.

changes to merge has simply heaped more pressure on Liffe's shoulders. exchange, said it intended to link up with equity options.

the success of DTB in trading the pres- Eurex, the electronic European ex-

In May, Liffe's proposals for change will be given further consideration by member firms at an extraordinary gen-The exchange's rivals added insult to eral meeting. Members are expected to injury earlier this week when the rabber-stamp plans to introduce elec-Deutsche Börse took out full-page adtrome trading and will also discuss Liffe's controversial scheme to relocate at Spipapers, offering to install DTB's tallields in East London. Other likely topics for discussion include Liffe's ownership structure. Mr Hodson has hinted it could tem does not have the superior func- incorporate and float on the stock mar-

Separately, Liffe announced yester-The recent decision of two rival ex- day that Datastream/ICV and Reuters would sell and support a Liffe-developed software package which provides access Earlier this month, the Chicago Board to Liffe Connect, the exchange's new of Trade, the world's largest derivatives electronic platform for trading individual



Changed man: Hamanaka arriving in court yesterday (top), his black hair having apparently turned grey

Copper fraudster gets eight years

trader at Sumitomo has been sentenced to eight years in prison after pleading guilty to hiding \$2.6bn (£1.6bn) in trading losses, the largest financial disaster ever blamed

on a single trader. Yasuo Hamanaka, 50, lied losses snowballed while he bought 1 million tons of copper over a decade in a desup. Hamanaka bought so ployed new measures." much copper - as much as 5 per cent of all that metal traded in the world each year - that traders dubbed him Mr

His lawyers said he would oo hail. Prosecutors had The judge cut that by two years since it was Hamanaka's first offence. "Hamanaka's actions greatly shook Sumitomo's corporate foundation," said Judge Yoshifumi Asayama, "He caused turmoil in the international copper mar-

ket. There's oo room for more leniency." Sumitomo said it had tightened supervision of its

THE FORMER chief copper traders since the fraud was discovered in June, 1996, as US and British authorities investigated manipulation of the copper market.

Kenji Miyahara, Sumitomo president, said: "The company's internal controls have always been consistent and forged documents as his with industry standards. Nevertheless, after discovering Mr Hamanaka's unauthorised activities, we evaluated our inperate attempt to keep prices ternal control system and em-

From 1985 until his exposure in 1996, Hamanaka bought copper in such copious quantities that he single-handedly kept prices rising in order to forestall losses on all the copappeal, and he remains out per he had already amassed.

That infuriated traders asked for a 10-year sentence. who had bet the other way and generated rumonrs for years that he and Sumitomo were

manipulating the market. * In a hearing last year, Hamanaka pleaded guilty to fraud and forgery, admitting he forged documents and stole 75.6 billion yen (£355m) from one of the company's Hong Kong units to cover up the decade of unauthorised trades.

Engineer's shares surge after chiefs quit

By Karry Benefield

SHARES in Powerscreen International, the troubled engineering company, surged yesterday after its chief executive and finance director resigned.

Shay McKeown stepped down from his chief executive post yesterday but will remain as a consultant, and Barry Cosgrove, finance director, resigned immediately.

withstood calls for their resignations since "irregularities" in the accounting books of their subsidiary Mathro were announced in January. The group saw approximately £250m wiped from its market value and immediately set aside £47m to cover the gap. A pre-tax loss of £10m is forecast, and share values have nearly halved.

The board had lost confidence in them [Mr McKeown and Mr Cosgrove) and basically there was board pressure for them to leave," a spokesman for Powerscreen said yesterday.

Analysts said mounting shareholder pressure was behind the moves. The company has been surrounded by allegations that sensitive information was withheld just before a share issue.

Mr Cosgrove has been accused of attending a Mothro sales meeting in December 1997 during which the company's pricing difficulties were discussed. Three million shares were issued on 18 December, six wecks before Powerscreen announced the "irregularities" which sent stock values plummeting. Yesterday the share price surged 40.5p to 136.5p fol-

lowing the announcement. Colin Fell, an analyst with Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, said: "The fact that somebody could have sat in on a meeting doesn't mean that he knew they were going to lose £46m. From where we stand, there is no way of knowing.

"Clearly, they [the board] have been extremely unhappy but I don't know how much more they can expect."

The departure of Mr Mc-Keown and Mr Cosgrove follows that of Patrick Dooey, sales and marketing director, whose resigned in February.

An investigation by Powerscreen's auditors, KPMG, is expected to be completed within a week. Price Waterhouse has been hired to review the work undertaken by KPMG.

Investment trusts face break-up threat

By Andrew Verity

BRITAIN'S £60bn investment trust industry yesterday began to crack under the strain of hostile Barings trust said it would grant some of the wishes of share-

Barings' £300m Tribune Infrom rebel shareholders who it, they are forced to sell out. want the trust broken up and switched into unit trusts, allowing them to realise a rapid gain of 10 per cent overnight.

The gain is possible because shares in Baring Tribune, like other investment trusts, trade at a sharp discount to the value of the assets held. If the trust is unitised, a 9 per cent discount is wiped out and shareholders in Baring Tribune realise a quick 10 per cent return.

Advance UK, an investment fund which specialises in this stuffed," Mr Watt said. form of arbitrage, has taken a 2 per cent stake in the trust and persuaded fellow shareholders to back their plan to unitise the selves in the Cayman Islands and trageurs as part of an "investtrust, which will be put to a vote Bermuda. American arbs, tradat an agm next Thursday.

The vote, which could strip Barings of £300m of funds . Westgate International Limited under management, has forced Partnership, typically build up it to announce it will allow a 20-30 per cent stake in an inpeople to sell out without being hit by a 9 per cent discount. It insists those who remain with the trust will not see their boldings shrink.

Arbitrageurs have put the in- centives as the arbs move in. creasingly vulnerable.

which are perceived to have underperformed (see list).

Advance UK, a £50m fund, takes a small stake in a trust which corporate activity as a leading it wants to target. If it can persuade enough institutional shareholders to come on board, it can holders who want to break o up. force a vote on unitising the trust. trust analyst with Credit Lyon-Unless minority shareholders vestment Trust faces demands muster enough votes to oppose

> The arbitrageurs have been criticised by City traditionalists such as Iain Watt, the chalman of Edinburgh Fund Managers. They say the "arbs" neglect the interests of minority investors, who invest in investment trusts because of low charges and better performance. The minority shareholders are forced to give up their holdings or shift into a unit trust, where charges can be three times as high. "The minority shareholders are basically

> Fund managers face more hitrageurs which base theming under names such as Liverpool Limited Partnership and vestment trust and then force a vote - or even bid for the trust. Investment trusts are in-

vestment trust industry under Last week. Kleinwort's Overseas siege by taking stakes in trusts Investment Trust offered to buy back shares and reconstruct itself. Sierra Trading, the New York company behind Liverpool Partnership, rejected this and demanded an egm to put its own proposals.

Peter Walls, an investment nais Laing, describes the strategy as a form of "greenmail" - forcing a trust to buy back shares at inflated prices.

"The stake has to get to a level where the aggressor has got a powerful or strong position. There has to be evidence that the trust has been underperforming. You have got to feel sorry for the investor who has had a solid investment trust for years. What they are going to be offered is a unit trust with management fees three times as high. If they try to take cash, they face capital gains tax."

Michael Hart, the former director-geoeral of the investopen hostility from American ar- meot trust trade body, the ATTC, described the arbiment trust-rubbishing industry". If an investment trust gets enough bad publicity, demand for shares drops. As discounts grow, the arbs'

arguments become more powerful. In 1994, the average discount was just 3.8 per cent. By last September, this had hit creasingly being forced to offer 14.1 per ceot. As a result, share buy-backs or other in- British investment trusts are in-

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To book call Dahouse Costs on 01875 820/53 or e-mail residual

To enter this competition dial the number below, answer the following question on line and Calle cost 50p per solnute as all theas. Where picked is n

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Leveraged Income Rend Limited in a new spin capital closed-end investment company with a planned lide of approximately seven years, the principal investment objective of which is a panued lide of approximately seven years, the principal investment objective of which is a possible Drinker income and the opportunity for to provide Ordinary income and the opportunity for income and capital growth over the life of the Company and to provide Zero Dividend Preference Statesholders with their fixed prior capital emitteness.

Copies of the Prospectus relating to Leveraged Income Fund Limited, published on Copies of the Prospectus relating to Leveraged Income Fund Limited, published on 25 blanch 1998, are available (on payment of a fee) (for collection during normal business 25 blanch income from the Company Associates Office, London Stock Exchange, Old Broad hours; from the Company Associates of the Street, London BCIN fifty on the two business days following the date of publication of the Street, London BCIN fifty on the two business days following normal business laws for collection until 9 April 1998 from:

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Ronaldo Hoddle leans towards experience the world

Glenn Moore looks at the relevance of England's Swiss friendly to the real thing

FOURTEEN World Cup finalists, almost half the summer entry, played warm-up friendlics on Wednesday night. Just three, Brazil, Spain and Denmark. gained a victory: Bulgaria, France and Austria lost to nonqualifiers Macedonia, Russia and Hungary respectively; and only Germany-Brazil attracted more than 25,000 spectators.

In that context England's scrambling draw with Switzerland in Berne does not look as shabby as it appeared at the time. One does wonder, however, what is the point of all these phoney wars.

While the England coach. Glenn Hoddle, moans that Brazil, with their pre-finals programme of non-stop friendlies. are "a motorway ahead of us" in preparation, the world champions have only one further match, against Argentina in Rio next month, arranged while he has four. His seven-match build-up since qualifying is also well ahead of Spain's quartet of matches and Italy's three-game itinerary.

But does it matter? Denmark players prepared for the 1992 European Championships. which they won after being summoned as a late replacement for Yugoslavia, by sunbathing or home-decorating. England only discovered their winning 1966 side in the quarter-finals. The problem is assessing the relevance of performances in friendly matches to the real thing.

Certainly Hoddle will have learned little from Wednesday night. Martin Keown, Gareth Southgate and Rio Ferdinand are all good defenders with limitations in possession, Paul Ince is a key player in the midfield battle, and England look better balanced with a linking striker, like Teddy Sheringham, than two out-and-out forwards. But we knew all that already.

Worringly it also underlined a message from the defeat to Chile last month. Without Paul Gascoigne England lack creativity. In three hours' football without him they have created less than a handful of chances.

"It was such a difficult pitch I'm not sure that even Paul could have shaped that game." said Huddle but he added: "At his best he can control the game and in the last four performances he has done that." Johan Cruyff recently sug-

gested that 30 minutes of Gascoinne were worth 90 from most players and England should pick him even if they only got half an hour from him. "It is an interesting point," said Hoddle, because no player can dictate for 90 minutes anyway. If you are looking for someone to control different parts of a game for 20 to 30 minutes then Paul could do that whether we say 'we'll give you 60 minutes and take you off', or bring him on. He has that

Steve McManaman "had a real timespan. Ferdinand can defend



Alan Shearer, the England striker, collides with Switzerland's goalkeeper, Jöel Corminboeuf, during Wednesday's I-I draw in Berne

go though the pitch didn't suit him and was as good as any in the second half": Michael Owen "found nut it was a lot tougher at this level but it was part of his education": Paul Merson "took his goal well"; and Rio Ferdinand "needs time to be nursed into the position, it was his first

full game and he did ok". The sweeper plan is beginning Of other players he thought to look too ambitious given the

and Jamie Redknapp, who swept in the B/Under-21 team's Tuesday defeat, can open the play with long-passing from the back but neither can do both. Redknapp is being groomed long-term; if he is in the squad for France it will be as a midfielder. The final squad will be based on experience, Mentioning Paul Ince and Alan Shearer, Hoddle added: "I found out the experienced play-

Terry Venables realised the same. In his first match, in March 1994, his team was built around the spine of David Seaman-Tony Adams-Paul Ince-Alan Shearer. That was still the axis for Euro 96 and remains Hoddle's preferred core. But, due largely to injuries, the quartet has played together only eight times in 39 matches under the two managers, and only

all four in the side and Venables was fortunate in that he could play them for four of the five Euro 96 matches. Hoddle will be hoping for similar fortune

He names his final 22 on 2 June after friendlies against Portugal and Saudi Arabia at Wembley, and Morocco and Belgium in Casabianca. Hoddle has so far called 54 players into his squads

the other hopefuls are placed.

It's Semen; G Neelle, Campbell, Scuthgele, Adems, Le Sauc Inco, Beddenn, Gescogne, Bety, Scholes, Sheener, Sheingham, PHORABLE:
Howers, Kagum, POSSEELLE, Marryn; R. Ferd-

of which 39 have been capped. "It would," be admitted, "be very difficult for anyone to break in now." Earlier in the week he spoke of 13 certainties, this is how

on Wednesday. The Scotland manager. Craig Brown, will study a video of the match in which two players were sent off. Brown said: "To go to Germany and beat them there is a major achievement. I will look at the game with interest." Ronaldo's goal, two minutes from time, came when his pace left the defence standing before a quick feint took him around the German goalkeeper Andreas Köpke. Brazil's coach, Mario Zagallo, said: "Ronaldo is a player who learned a lot at the World Cup in '94. He didn't play but integrated himself into the side. He has developed marvellously as an athlete and gained maturity. Zagallo's faith in the 21-yearold Ronaldo was emphasised in the second half when he gave him the captain's armband after Dunga was sent off. Germany's coach, Berti

RONALDO provided Scotland - and the rest of the world - with a potent reminder of his strik-

ing prowess oo Wednesday,

just when the Scots are having

problems of their own in attack.

young striker is running into

form at the right time with the

World Cup finals approaching.

That is bad news for Scotland,

who face the holders in the

winner as Brazil gained a 2-1 vic-

tory in a bad-tempered friend-

ly against Germany in Stuttgart

Ronaldo scored a marvellous

opening match on 10 June.

Internazionale's gifted

Vogts, was quick to label Brazil as his "absolute top favourites for the World Cup". However, Zagallo said: "I don't think you can talk about favourites at a World Cup, especially when you have countries like Italy and Germany there, both of whom have several world titles." The other red card apart

from Dunga went to the Germany's veteran central defender Jürgen Kohler, who was sent off for a vicious tackle on Roberto Carlos in the first half.

The English referce, David Elleray, could have shown more

Brown studies his options and finds he has few

By Phil Shaw

SEVERAL Scotland players emerged from the setback in the World Cup warm-up match against Denmark with reputations enhanced. Sadly for 26,000 spectators at Ibrox, they came almost exclusively from Craig Brown's list of absentees.

The 1-0 defeat was the Scots' ninth in 14 friendlies under Craig Brown, cootrasting starkwith their performances in

competitive games. While the result may have had scant significance for the June adventure against Brazil, Morocco and Norway, the disappointing displays by some of Brown's fringe candidates merely underlined the qualities of those missing through injury.

"We have a good nucleus of 14 to 15," the Scotland manager said yesterday, "hut there's enhanced. much of a muchness after that." ely as he tried to talk up the

input of Scot Gemmill and Billy McKinlay in midfield, their efforts paled oext to the passing ability normally provided by John Collins and Paul Lambert

The case for giving the Celtic playmaker Craig Burley an opportunity to fill Gary McAllister's role in the oext game, against Finland in Edinburgh on 22 April, was also unwittingly

The service to the strikers was lacking that it was difficult to

assess the capabilities of Darren Jackson, Scott Booth and Eoin Jess. But Brown was sufficiently concerned about Scotland's lack of scoring potential when Kevin Gallacher is unfit to admit that he will be monitoring the form

of 35-year-old Ally McCoist. One consolation was that the back three looked reasonably secure, notwithstanding Christian Dailly's mistake for the goal.

Tuesday's 4-0 victory over Wales in the B match at Cum-

play after making two goals.

There were also some eyecatching saves by Jonathan Gould, whose form for Celtic in for criticism yesterday. The has made him unrecognisable from the goalkeeper who strug-

thought as he ponders his se-

lection to face the Finns. Tosh

McKinlay, who played in all 10

qualifying games for France 98

but lost his place after failing to

find favour with Wim Jansen at

Celtic, may yet have a part to

bernauld gave Brown food for gled to establish himself at Coventry and Bradford.

Brown said he "could not ignore" Gould's claims and acknowledged that there was still time for him to put pressure on Neil Sullivan as back-up to Jim Leighton and Andy Goram.

Meanwhile, Scotland's catalogue of friendly failures was not the only record that came official World Cup song by

Del Amitri was attacked for being "dirge-like" by DJs on Radio Clyde, The station polled listeners

for their preference between "Don't Come Home Soon" and "Scotland Be Good", by the Wee-ist Pipe Band in the World, based on Chuck Berry's "Johnny B Goode". The unofficial anthem, which the Scottish Football than two red cards if he had not Association allegedly refused to been in one of his lenient play during half-time at Ibrox, moods, such was the cynical 97 per cent of the votes. nature of the game.

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there is life outside League

Non-League notebook

By Rupert Metcalf

IT MAY not come as much consolation to Doncaster Rovers, but three clubs are doing their best this season to prove that there is life beyond the Football

All three were former rivals of Rovers in the Third Division North and then the Fourth Division hefore losing their League places. Now they are experiencing happier times: Halifax Town are on course to win the GM Vauxhall Conference, Barrow are similarly well-placed in the UniBond League - and Southport are on the brink of playing at Wembley for the first time.

Tomorrow Southport travel to Slough for the first leg of their FA Umbro Trophy semi-final. If the Sandgrounders see off their Conference rivals and lift the Trophy in May, it will be the biggest achievement by the club from the seaside town since they won the Fourth Division in 1973 - just five years before they

lost their League place. A hat-trick by Brian Ross earned Southport a 3-1 quarterfinal replay win over Grantham last week and a place in the last four of the Trophy for the first time. Ross, the former Chorley striker, has scored in every round of the competition so far and has found the net seven times in total.

Slough are claiming the dubious honour of the country's busiest cup team this season. They have already played 17 knock-out ties this season. In the quarter-finals the Rebels achieved a feat which was beyond Newcastle United: they managed to win at Stevenage.

Dover reached the last four of the Trophy for the first time when their marathon journey midweek journey to Barrow last week resulted in a penalty shoot-out victory over the Cumbrian side. Tomorrow they travel to the bookmakers' favourites, Cheltenham, for the first leg of their semi-final.

Southport show Wales expose Fifa rankings

By Guy Hodgson

AT least the new Welsh Assembly has been given a signal how to improve the standing of the national football team. Simply secode from the United Kingdom, supply Glamorgan cricketers for the West Indies and join the American nations in Concacaf.

The starkest message that came out of an unfulfilling 0-0 draw hetween Wales and Jamaica is the world rankings are a joke. Friendlies can send out misleading signals but no amount of smoke could disguise the fact that there should not be a 70-place disparity between

Wales (107) would have beaten Jamaica (33) 4-0 if all the chances had been taken at Ninian Park on Wednesday. It left Bobby Gould brandishing Exhibit A in a case of injustice. "How can the US be ahead of Holland?" the Welsh manager asked. "Please, tell the world the truth, Fifa [world football's governing body] have got it wrong.

"It's not fair to us, we get judged by those rankings. If you

are going to play more games in Africa, if you're going to play in America they're going to get more points. If the opposition they're playing isn't as good as that Wales has to face then we're being punished."

murred, reasoning that meeting the giants of Canada in Toronto is on a par to playing Germany in Munich, but Cardiff did little to suggest that the overhyped Reggae Boyz will be anything but a brief novelty act in France 98. The conditions, cold and wet, were not what they would have ordered but, as anyone who has watched tennis at Roland Garros can confirm. it is not always glorious sunshine in France in June.

Their defence, frequently chaotic, was blatantly unhappy under the high ball while they gave away possession with abandon, prompting the impression that World Cup opponents could lie back and wait for mistakes. "We didn't expect Wales to play on the fifth floor," lamely complained the coach, Rene Samoes, about the number of headers his players had to deal with.

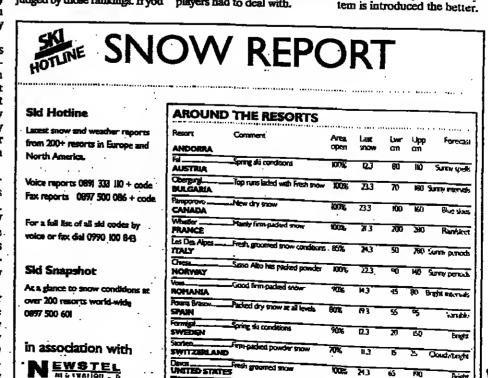
Peter Cargill is a splendid playmaker and Clifton Waugh, who had Jamaica's only accurate shot - in the 70th minute looked a lively striker but, if it had not been for the exuberant masses dressed in black, green and gold the visitors would Jamaica, naturally, dehave been anonymous. Nice crowd, shame about the team is not a ringing endorsement to

take to the World Cup. The main Welsh gain from the evening was the finding of a left-back, a position that has been a problem since Paul Bodin vacated it. Darren Barnard confirmed the promise he has shown at Barnsley this season.

The night also might be remembered as the beginning of a international career of 18year-old Craig Bellamy who was introduced as a substitute to become the third youngest Welsh international after Ryan Giggs and John Charles.

Wales still produce players. It is moulding them into a team that is a problem, not helped by a world ranking that induces an inferiority complex. The sooner a continent-by-continent sys-

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warns • Trainers attracted by draw

By Greg Wood at Doncaster

ASKING racehorse trainers to brave decision, but Doncaster a flourish yesterday as a radical new procedure to determine the draw for tomorrow's Lincoln hitch. If there was a team of paramedics oo standby to treat any handlers who found the effort all too much, then their seronce there was a definite hint of excitement about the first day of the Flat season on turf.

The effect of the draw is a fertile source of debate before many big races, particularly handicaps oo a straight course, and often a useful excuse afterwards. There should be less reasoo for trainers to grumble after the Lincoln, however, since yesterday's draw gave most of them a chance to choose either the stall they wish their numer to occupy, or at any rate a choice between a berth on either the oear or far side.

Numbered lots - antiques on loan from York's racing museum - were drawn by the actor Steve Huison, one of the most think for themselves was a famous Yorkshiremen in the world thanks to his leading role pulled it off with something of in The Full Monty. When their runner's number emerged from the velvet bae, its trainer or owner had 60 seconds to nominate Handicap passed with barely a an unclaimed stall, and their various strands of thought were both intriguing and informative.

It was no surprise, however, when Grant Harris of the Navices were not required, and for tional Trainers' Federation, who was representing the connections of Right Wing, opted for stall six when John Dunlop's runner was first from the bag. Improbable as it may seem, there is a theory that the locals who walk their dogs on Town Moore for much of the year tend to do so on a strip of grass exactly six stall-widths from the far rail, to the extent that the ground is compacted and thus

that vital fraction faster. Whatever the reason, though, the horse from box six has been a regular feature of the finish over the last few years, in the middle, and we preferred the last of the 24 runners to be Board's "showcase" races.



. First Protocol: The start of the opening race of the Flat season won by Protocol

Lincolns and three second stall, because they go in first and places too. Right Wing, already you're waiting around longer." among the favourites, was im-This last point was also in the mediately clipped to 6-1 (from mind of Gay Kelleway, wheo

7-1) by the Tote. The next three horses were RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Cattly Hang slotted into adjacent stalls in (Newbury 2.25) four, five and three, but when NB: Artful Dane (Doncaster 3.10) it fell to Bruce Raymond, representing Maktoum Al Maktoum, to find a home for Hair,

he chose 20. "To be honest," be she chose two - "the stall I wantsaid afterwards, "I dont think ed" - for La Modiste, rather there is any real advantage for than one, right against the far either side, but I asked Michael rail. The only trainer who did Hills and he said he would want not get a choice was Tony Newto be high, we didn't want to be combe, whose Silca Blanka was of the British Horseracing and may be ahead of the hand-

with four winners in the last 11 not to have an odd-numbered drawn, and found himself in the unwanted stall 15.

> Silca Blanks, of course, will probably now proceed to win in a canter, but whatever the result tomorrow, yesterday's draw was a very clever and successful innovation, and one which may in time become a familiar part of the build-up to big races.

> It certainly provided the boost for which the opening day on the turf has long been searching although there was also much to like about the winners of both the Doncaster Mile and the Tote/49s Handicap, the first

Hornbeam, a rare runner in

a Listed race for John Jenkins, rao away with the Doncaster Mile, although it seems unlikely that many of his rivals had been trained to the same level of fitness. The handicap, meanwhile, fell to Proud Native, the top weight, and while a 16-1 winner will oot have satisfied many punters io a race designed specifically to encourage them, Proud Native will surely repay further support. A winter recruit to David Nicholls's yard, he is yet another advertisement for his traiger's considerable talent, icapper for a while to come.

Embassy heads Godolphin team

sic-winning heights. It is putting talent such as Cape Verdi, City Honours and Central Park to help wrest back its supremacy.

Speaking in Dubai, Simon Crisford, the seam's racing manager, announced that the Just under 60 will be selected Cheveley Park Stakes first and with another 60 two-year-olds, fourth, Embassy and Cape Verdi, will be aimed at the 1.000 Guineas, Central Park at the 2,000 Guineas and the Derby will switch to Godolphiv at the candidate City Honours at York's Dante Stakes.

Daylami, recruited from the Aga Khan, will join a talented main 1,000 hope, Embassy. crop of older horses including needed a check-up at the equine Allied Forces, Predappio and Swain. The success of the lastnamed in the King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes provided Godolphin's only Group One win in what was a relatively disappointing 1997.

-We under-performed at veiled the new team it hopes will Group One level," Crisford restore its fortunes to the Classic Said. "We hope our Classic hand does better this time. Last its faith in the ex-David Loder year we over-rated them. They filly Embassy and bought-in were running to races they didn't belong in."

Godolphin will pick its team for Britain at trials which will take place a week before the Newmarket Craven meeting. the first of which leave today, joining their "youth-team coach" David Loder. The best end of the season.

There was a scare for the team at the weekend when its hospital. "Embassy wasn't comfortable after a normal canter but by the time she got to the hospital she was fine. We doo't anticipate any further minor scares but we have to be aware of it." Crisford said.

DONCASTER

2.05: Plenty of pace is in prespect among the low numbers with the front-remains Coretaid in stall five. Westcourt Magic, whose chance would be improved by more rain, is nearby in stall seven and is an-other who races prominently. MU-JOVA, out of stall nine and from a stable in form, should therefore get a nice tow and has prospects of reaching the frame at long odds. \mathbf{m}

2.35: Jemaican Flight has shown improved form on the sand at Woherhampton and Sue Lamy-man's stable won the opening race here vesterday. However, he is badly off at the weights with Nonfart, who has wen eight races on sand merous attempts. TURNPOLE is 87b higher in the handicap since his Cesarewitch victory in October (2m 2f) but goes well fresh and could outclass this field.

3.16: TERTIUM failed to

Doncaster 2.35

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First show

Kurpole

HYPERION'S TV TIPS

son but shows solid form in the spring. This six-year-old also ran well here last September, beaten two lengths by Salio in a 21-run-ner handicap, but is on a 10th low-er merk today. John Gosden had his team well forward at this time last year and his lightly raced Wellaid is the dark horse. Royal Result has a good chance as long as there is no further rain.

3.40: Barry Hills landed this last year with Mithak and saddles Rain-how Ways this time. The stable is usually among the winners at this stage of the season but at this distance be could be held by the more stoutly-bred ACHILLES - runnerup to the useful Mutawwaj over a mile at Goodwood in September.

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Doncaster

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HYPERION 3.10 TERTIUM (nep) 3.40 Achilles (nb) 4.10 Arpeggio

GOING: Good

STALLS: Straight course - stands side; round course - inside; round mile - cutelds. DRAW ADVANTAGE; None.

• Left-hand, pear-shaped course with 'in straight.

• Course is east of the town off the A638 (M*B Junctions 2 & 4). Bus link from Doncester Central rail station. ADMISSION: Cub Ptc; Grandstand 29; Femily Enclosure 23 juncter-file free all enclosures). CAR PARK: Free.

• LEADING TRAINERS: B Hills — 31 winners from 178 runners gives a success ratio of 174%; J Goeden 25 from 177 (20.5%); Mrs J Ramaden 19 from 169 (10.1%); M Johnston 14 from 164 (1915).

of 17.4%; J Gooden 25 from 127 (20.5%); Mire J Hardsoon 19 from 104 (10.1%); Mired ton 14 from 154 (10.1%); Mired ton 150 (10.5%); Mired

1.30 MARGARET BASS MAIDEN SELLING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,000 added 2YO 5f Penalty Value £2,322 ANGES THE BOLD (C & A Daubre) J Berry 90.

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EETTHIS: 3-1 Angus The Bold, 4-1 inpu Lake, 5-1 Junt Stratey, 7-1 County Times, Sounds Seest, 16-1 Bushy, 12-1 Howey The Lade, Politie Selec, 16-1 others 1997; Jackson 8-0 M Fertins 8-1 (3 Retirently classes 59 par FORMS GUIDE

Inches Guide

Lack Berry's youngsters are worth falving in the season's party weeks—Principality showed the yend was forward with a bod display to finish second in yesterday's Broddesby States—and Berry can get off the mark with ANGUS THE BOLD. A son of Pulsarance fairs of the stable's fire opiniter Mind Games) Angus The Bold will know his job and a high draw will probably be a holp. Brian Rottwell won this less year with Jackseth and this time seddes County Tieses, a son of Threless Times, who scored 16 times as a two-year-old. Mick Charmon's early numers also usually go well, so they Lake is non for the shortfair Kevin Durley is an interesting booking for Jonio O'Neills Sounds Sweet, while Bill Tumer's Junet Sunday is another who can figure.

Selection: ANGUS THE BOLD

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-	red, Bold	84 R Lappin 12-1 (J L Eyra) down (10) 22 mn
18	87: KSrs. 7	84 R Lappar 12-1 (a L Egra) data-r (c) as re-

Bristal Festiasy, who won the five-fixting handcap on the opening day here last year off an 1tib lower mest, is again throm the all-weather but, whereas he came here in winning form 12 months ago, he hasn't cicled in five attempts the year and is well held by Yiggy's Dencer (second) on he least now when fifth (of 10) to Depreciate at Southwell He is probably more effective over the minimum on fart. JEFFMEY ANOTHERISED heart won since his juvetile days when he went in three times — a maiden auction at Hamilton and nurseries at Hampton and over seven furthings at this track, However, he ran some good access in 1997 and he passes off a 18th lower mark then when second, at three-quanters of a length, to Great Crild (sec 18th) at Chester in May, Michael Doddr charps can get back on the winning stall from what could be a two water in May. Michael Doddr charps can get back on the winning stall from what could be a two unable traw in stall 10. Chesters they not for the result of the supporters a good num from able 17. The ann of Cadeaux Generaux stalled to acid to the success, which year in a making, but he wound up with a fair fourth of 25 behind Prino Lera at Redday in Nevember. Deathe Occur, Barazoe and Westcourt Magic finished 14th, 20th and 22nd in the Redday rance. Double Occur sooned that these in 1897 and was success-Redgar in November. Deable Occar, Benzoe and Westcourt Magic finished 14th, 20th and 22nd in the Redgar race. Double Occar scored five times in 1997 and West successful at Lingsfeld in Jenuary and has run well to reach a place in all time subsequent at weather starts. He comes have with a bester chance than most with fives at a premium.

Selection: JOTFREY ANOTHERITED

		2.35 RAY BASS HANDICAP (CLASS C) £10,000 added C2	
	ī	2021- TLEBEFOLE (JRS) (SI) (W J Williams) Mrs M Panelsy 7 10 0	,
	2	2500- PHSK (July Date JP Correct) T Emintry 5 8 TO	4
	3	22050- SPARTAN HEARTHEAT (139) (KW Big J Cishen 597W Ryan 3 50	1
•	7	26-82 JAMAICAN PLIGHT (12) (SF) (PLEMPONT) Nes 8 Lampont 5-97	1
	5	PESD- BOWCLEFFE COURT (JZZ (A.D Sperce) J.Alehant 697	ì
		3325- DOMEDON STAR (116) (M C Westley) A Kallenny 466	1
	7	08251- OPACIDE (J109) (C) (G J Kerry) W Story 864	i
	8	WHS FICHER SKY (Jes) (Klemisk) O Sterwood 762	i
	•	* \$1902- PERE COMES HETHRE (141) \$1 S Hubbinson) W Stray B B D	4
Ċ	Ď	EXPENSION AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AND AN	1
•	'n	3-12/1 MOUFAPI (FF) (13) (E Westvar) R Hollanded 7 6 TO	-
	12	TELE WHETLEY GRANGE BOY (ME) (Mrs C Syland J L Eyro 568 Carbon 11 80	ĺ
	15	- 1000 -AYRO ANSON (127) (Axin) Mas J A Carracto 10 6 6	1

RETTRICES 2 Montart 5-1 Downton Star, Turrente, 8-1 Bourdith Court, Jameiran Fight, Opens

BETTING: 9-2 plantieri, 5-1 Downdon Star, Turnota, 8-1 Bouetith Court, Jamelann Flight, Openus, 10-4 Rusik, Whitley Grange Boy, 12-1 Here Come Herbin, 19-1 Father Star, 20-1 others 1997: Obsideratives 4.7 til T. Williams 9-2 Li L. Gyroj dawn (p) to ser 1997: Obsideratives 4.7 til T. Williams 9-2 Li L. Gyroj dawn (p) to ser 1998: and to One-tonoven leed year, could stell be the besetting coming here in cracking from from the all-vessible ready with somet apprentice Adrian McCerthy teiding out 5-b. Reg Hollimshead's number hard with somet apprentice Adrian McCerthy teiding out 5-b. Reg Hollimshead's number has second in the other. The son of Dorby here Karthysel got home by a longth and a quarter from Jesustates Flight two weeks ago and should have nothing to fear from the three repolitis been fonces and the territor is a pound worse off with Nouted than when the third repolitis the reference and the territor is a pound worse of with Nouted than when the finding four temptins behind thin in Meter Aspecto's Widwerheripton race. Bouetiffs Court and Rittelt are fit from hundling. The former word in first time up last term, detenting Embryonic (twice a winner afterwends) trace parts of a length at Warwick in April, and could figure with Richard Culvin again on board. Rusk is 5th higher them when winning the Browning with Richard Culvin again on board. Rusk is 5th higher them when winning the Browning with Richard Culvin signit of the title so the Apost in July when a 20-1 shot, and could go well with Richard Version claiming 5th. Terripole took the Coursewitch over today's septent of the title season the season. Richard plant and could see the leasest behind Mightly Mose at Challerhern on New Year's Day, Related 5th since the Newmentest meration and on 10st, he faces a tough task conceding the race-th season can be seed to subtended the first season.

3.10 WORTHINGTON SPRING MILE HANDICAP (CLASS B) \$20,000 added 1m (straight)
Penalty Value \$15,920

1	3.40 HEPWORTH DRAINAGE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS C4
Ŀ	3.40 HEPWORTH DRAINAGE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS C4) D) £6,000 3YO 1m 2f 60yds Peneity Velue £4,308
1	3223- ACHILLES (138) (SE) (Achilles International) In Lithrester 80
2	CAREFOR JACK 64 W Torse J Bross 9 0 S Dromp S -
3	FRENCH WOOD (USA) (Visits States) B Harbury BD
4	22- LONG BOND (180) (M Gath M Johnston 9 D
5	24. RAINBOW WAYS (162) BASCOUTH A HARDOUTH 8 HES B 0
6	O. FIAJATI (USA) (160) (Lord Howard De Walder) Mrs. J Carol 80
7	DAS SANTONE (228) (Storetharn Shall R Harron BD
à	SPRING ANCHOR (FR) DI ANDI P COS 50T Color 7
6	STRENGERS U.S Cohero 8 Kestionel 6 8
10	2000- REPRESENTION (182) (Ms N Globywrght) M Chapman 6 9
n	D-0600 WOODLANDS PRIDE (SS) (E Knowled) M Chapman 68
ar.	STREET EA Dainbow Many E. Come Road 11.9 Section Auction 7.1 Sections 3.1 Sections 14.1

FORM GUIDE

Reliabore Ways should like the trip after his juvenile runs over seven furiongs and a mile. A pleasing second to Bersin at Laicester and then fourth of 22 to Border Arrow at Newmerlest, the son of Reinbow Cuest should reliab this. Achilises deserves a whi on his theoret, juvenile form, but LONG BONG could well beat the under in the hands of Michael Roberts. Long Bond did little wrong on both juvenile starts – the second against Dukolema in Dielactorf – and he could go off at decent odds. Sentone may find this trip too lant, but Paul Could Site Anchor newcomer Spring Anchor should stay and the yerd lumed over a Hills holpot hare yesterday.

Selection: LONG BOND

	4	.10 HEPWORTH CONCRETE MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) 25,000 added 3YO 7f Penaity Value E3,785
,	1	ALEANEH (T Starrent) Mas G Koloney 60R Cochrece 7
,	,	204 ARPEGGIO 5000 (Luciero St.d. R. Harton 68
,		32- CHATTAN (199) (Abdulat Seed But Haby 8 Hills 90
	*	CORESIZO Plantet Al-Marinet K Wards 60
	2	CASTAC ASSESSMENT VINESTA OF THE COMPANY OF THE COMPANY
,	5	C2- MASAMADAS (125) AN TROUGH C Wed 90 B Sanders 12
•	6	CO- NENJARA (150) (Lambourn Pacing Cale) A P Jones 90
	7	6- RACHAELS NORTH (140) (PJ Vole) RATISSTORY 60 R Price 2
•	8	RED BORDEAUX (W Sale) 8 MBs 80
	9	CO- TOP SEAR (147) (L Sherdard P Howing 90 J Onion 3
	10	WAITING KNAGHT (USA) (Abdulish All) B Harbory 80 W Ryan 9
	7	6 COUPLED (SE) (Nes C Man) B C Williams 66 G Carter 6
		CONTROL OF THE CONTRO
	2	MORGAN LE FAY (Lord Purtrier) 8 Meeten 69 K Darley 1
	13	9- PURVEE (140) (J R Hall) P Daton 63
	DET	Tittle 2.4 Semantin E.4 Chatter E.4 Dadanie Houth VA.1 Bad Reviewer Utaline Knight 14.1

- 1	Don	C25t	er 2	05			
н	Home	C	н				
2	Octible Owner	8-1	8-1	8-1	7-1		
	Carleson Cher	8-1	81	8-1	- 84		
5	Tradia West	64	6-1	9-1	9-1		
2	Almoyor Allega	10-1	70-1	70-1	10-1		
	July Anchine	d 10-1	12-1	10-1	12-1		
	Bols Blost	14-1	13-1	12-1	14-1		
	Westpoort Magic	12-1	14-1	14-1	12-1		
8	Golden Pound	16-1	16-1	16-1	14-1		
- }	Topion	15-1	16-1	16-1	14-1		
1 [Ziggy's Dancer	16-1	14-1	14-1	_14-1		
ı	Royal Mark	15-1	16-1	18-1	78-1		
1	Descrip	20-1	20-1	20-1	20-1		
-	Brutet Person	14-1	15-1	20-1	20-1		
	Elevanio Delia	16-1	14-1	20-1	14-1		
4	Practitio	25-1	20-1	161	20-1		
	Cornell	25-1	20-1	15-1	15-1		
5	Lovellect	20-1	25-1	20-1	20-1		
۱,	Indian Base	20-1	25-1	38-1	251		
1	Johnny Stucceto	33-1	33-1	251	33-1		
"	Khelik	33-1	23-1	33-1	33-1		
, į	Majore	2-1	33-1	25-1	25-1		
1	House At Newsman	240-1	50-1	50-1	40-1		
5	Each way, a quality the occls, places 1, 2, 3, 4						
2	C- Cost H - Wiem Hit L- Lactories, T- Total						

12-1 12-1 12-1 12-1 Alpho History 7-1 14-1 14-1 12-1 Ben Gures 2-1 14-1 2-1 14-1 | Novemblage | 94-1 | 94-1 | 96-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 16-1 | | 1 WM65kg 16-1 14-1 12-1 16-1 Best DYAE 251 251 251 20-1 20-1 20-1 20-1 20-1 Rainbow Rain 15-1 15-1 15-1 20-1 Rebail County 151 20-1 151 16-1 Band Do The Rive 25-1 20-1 20-1 20-1 Grey Kingdom 20-1 20-1 25-1 25-1 <u>Januaria</u> 201 201 251 201 Mir phipita 201 251 251 201 Smokey FCapity 20-1 20-1 25-1 20-1 Self 251 251 251 201 Doubled 331 251 Eurobex Boy 25-1 25-1 25-1 20-1 Super Represch 25-1 33-1 33-1 25-1 Each way, 4 quarter the politic places 1, 2, 3, 4 C-Cool H - Wilson Hill L- Lackyples 7 - Total

WINCANTON

Racing Results

DONCASTER

PLUMPTON

PLUMPTON

2.26; 1. EAGER BRAVER (Mr A Holdsworth) 5-2; 2. Setter The Day 11-4; 3. Deater Storm 9-11; 2ran, 9-4 for illumination of the property of the storm 11-12; 2ran, 9-4 for illumination of the property of the property

made a sharp start on the first day of the new Flat season by tipping No Cliches at Doncaster yesterday (starting price - 16-1; Tote win dividevd - £32.10 to a £1 stake).

INDEPENDENT **RACING SERVICES** 0891 261 + LIVE COMMENTARIES RESULTS DONCASTER 971 NEWBURY 972 982 KELSO 973 ALL COURSES RESULTS 0891 261 970

Newbury

HYPERION 1.50 Music Therapy 2.25 Cattly Hang 2.55 Golden Eagle 3.30 Teeton Mill 4.00 Premier Bay 4.30 Edmond

GOUNG: Good to Soft.

O Loft-hand course with stiff lences.

O Loft-hand course with stiff lences.

O Course is SE of town near A34. ADMIBSION: Members £14;
Intersalls £2: Shver Fing £4 (OAPs half price) CAR PARTIC free.
Intersalls £2: Shver Fing £4 (OAPs half price) CAR PARTIC free.
Intersalls £2: Shver Fing £4 (OAPs half price) CAR PARTIC free.

O LEADING THANNERS: O Nicholson 24-TIO (219%) O Sherwood

19-80 (317%), N Handerson 17-97 (127%), M Pipe 15-78 (192%).

O LEADING JOCKEYS: R Dumwood (20-103 (194%), M A Fibiger
of TAYOURITES: 157 was from 359 races (104%).

BLINKERED FIRST TIME: None.

1.50 BETTERTON NOVICE CHASE (CLASS D) 25,000 added 3m 25-,000 SIGNED STITLE S

BETTING: 4-6 Mediate Cooking, 6-4 Monic Therapy, 12-1 Lawsedon Manter, 7: 39-1 others 2.25 PAUL CROUCHER HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C) 57,000 added 2m 4f 2.55 SABIN DU LOIR MAIDEN HURDLE 2-55 SABIN DU LOIR MADEN HURDLE
(CLASS D) E5,000 addaed 2m 5f

44 BERLM BILE (16) C Books 5 19 9 G Bradey
FORT 1500 LOUIT \$250 C March 8 19 R Downley
FORT 1500 LOUIT \$250 C March 8 19 R Downley
FORT 1500 LOUIT \$250 C March 8 19 R Downley
FORT 1500 LOUIT \$250 C March 8 19 R Downley
FORT 1500 LOUIT \$250 C March 9 19 R Downley
FORT 1500 LOUIT \$250 C March 9 19 R D March 100 GOOD 1500 EAGLE (172) N Hardeson 6 11 8 N P Congress (7)
GOOD 1500 EAGLE (172) N Hardeson 6 11 8 P Carberry
SE MARLSORDUGH (26) T FORLM 11 8 P Carberry
FORT MASTER PLISTEN (12) G Backing 6 11 8 R P McCoy
PT PASK HIDGE (551) N Lampard 6 11 8 C C Webb (5)

3.30 ALISON ASSOCIATES HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £4,000 added 3m 1 (CLASS H) £4,000 acided 3m

1 /n-n Terrow Mell (17/6) Mas C Boby 3 2 TL Mr 8 Potect 8)

2 27-30 Argentanold pt (0) J Potect 2 4 Mas L Home (7)

3 PHUSE STERLING BOXX PG (0) Doggen 1 2 4 Mas L Home (7)

4 PP-22 JOY FOR LEE (11) (0) Mas B Stongs 7 n 18 Mr 8 Stongs (7)

— 4 declared —

BETTENS: 1-4 Yeston Mil. 7-1 Joy For Life, 1-1 Archeveness, 16-1 Stanling Back

THE TESTIN WELL (17/09) Nos & Boby 3 2 TL. Mr. 8 Poleck (5)
21-00 ARDERHENAN (9) (0) J Porter 17 2 4 Miles L Horrer (7)
PP-22 JOY FOR LIFE (17) (0) Nos B Borgs 11 2 A Miles L Horrer (7)
4 declared:

4 declared:
4 Declared:
5 DOP GOLDEN FUNCH (USA) (9) J Porter 8 14 M. R Harmati B 15 Cope Golden Funch (USA) (9) J Porter 8 14 M. R Harmati B 16 Check 17 DOP GOLDEN FUNCH (USA) (9) J Porter 8 14 M. R Harmati B 17 Check 17 DOP GOLDEN FUNCH (USA) (9) J Porter 7 14 M. C Heads 17 DOP GOLDEN FUNCH (USA) (9) J Porter 7 14 M. C Heads 17 DOP GOLDEN FUNCH (USA) (9) J Porter 7 14 M. C Heads 18 DOP GOLDEN FUNCH (USA) (9) J Porter 7 14 M. C Heads 18 DOP GOLDEN FUNCH (USA) (9) J Porter 7 14 M. C Heads 18 DOP GOLDEN FUNCH (USA) (9) J Porter 7 14 M. C Heads 18 DOP GOLDEN FUNCH (USA) (9) J Porter 7 14 M. C Heads 18 DOP GOLDEN FUNCH (USA) (9) J Porter 7 14 M. C Heads 18 DOP GOLDEN FUNCH (USA) (9) J Porter 7 14 M. C Heads 18 DOP GOLDEN FUNCH (USA) (9) J Porter 7 14 M. C Heads 18 DOP GOLDEN FUNCH (USA) (9) J Porter 7 14 M. C Heads 18 DOP GOLDEN FUNCH (USA) (9) J Porter 7 14 M. C Heads 18 DOP GOLDEN FUNCH (USA) (9) J Porter 7 14 M. C Heads 18 DOP GOLDEN FUNCH (USA) (9) J Porter 7 14 M. C Heads 18 DOP GOLDEN FUNCH (USA) (9) J Porter 7 14 M. C Heads 18 DOP GOLDEN FUNCH (USA) (9) J Porter 7 14 M. C Heads 18 DOP GOLDEN FUNCH (USA) (9) J Porter 7 14 M. C Heads 18 DOP GOLDEN FUNCH (USA) (9) J Porter 7 14 M. C Heads 18 DOP GOLDEN FUNCH (USA) (9) J Porter 7 14 M. C Heads 18 DOP GOLDEN FUNCH (USA) (9) J Porter 7 14 M. C Heads 18 DOP GOLDEN FUNCH (USA) (9) J Porter 7 14 M. C Heads 18 DOP GOLDEN FUNCH (USA) (9) J Porter 7 14 M. C Heads 18 DOP GOLDEN FUNCH (USA) (9) J PORTER FUNC 4.00 NEWBURY HANDICAP HURDLE (CLASS D) £5,000 added 4YO 2m 110yds

2 28 RSAL (191) (D) M Poe 7 2 A P McCoy
3 323-0 TOUGH ACT (e) (D) Mrs A Perrett 1: D M A Plargurald
4 4041 PENERIL PENDRAGON (21) (CD) (B biding 1: 8 S Fox
5 455 RED GLIAND (21) 4 Gibrard 1: D P Hole
8 5805 SUPHENISK (21) Mrs D Hare 10: 1 G Bradley V
BET TENC: 8-4 Premier Bay, 8-1 Pererit Pendragon, 9-2 Irsal, Red Guard,
7-1 Supremiers, 16-1 Tough Act 4.30 WANTAGE NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS D) £4,000 added 3m 110yds 2-51 EMOND PRO (17) T Poster 6 11 2. A Thorston
1P20 PRANCS (FR) C40 M Ppe 8 11 12. A P McCoy 2
1P20 PRANCS (FR) C40 M Ppe 8 11 12. R Johnson
01 CASTERROSE (15) M Weeding 11 8. R Johnson
1-50 BRANCSHAW WOOD (57) R Ahw 8 11 4. R Democy
1-50 BRANCSHAW WOOD (57) R Ahw 8 11 4. R Democy
1-50 BRANCSHAW WOOD (57) R Ahw 8 11 4. R Democy
1-50 BRANCSHAW WOOD (57) R Ahw 8 11 4. R Democy
1-50 BRANCSHAW WOOD (57) R Ahw 8 11 4. R Democy

= 14 declared = 5E(TMG: 4-7 Spirit of Smel, 6-1 Format Ri pages, 10-1 Colladous Boy, 14-1 others

00 CHANTELY ROSE (RS) 6 10 7 AS Saids POLOD EVENING DUSK (RS) 6 10 7 B Harding OF PREPARACK HARTER (AS 6 07 July L Timple (7)

PLAYINGHELL B 167

4.50 NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV II)

Kelso

1.40 Reeds 2.15 Know-No-No 2.45 Master Hyde 3.20 Son Of Iris 3.50 Craig Burn 4.20 Forrest Tribe 4.50 Point Reyes

GOING: Good (Good to Firm in places)

Unitability course. Puri-in of two furiongs.

Unitability course. Puri-in of two furiongs.

Course is N of from of Badel. Adhessions: Guo Sill, Telegrads. 17 (DAPs & Students 19), CAR PARIC Fire.

LEADING JOCKEYS: P. Niver 47-49 (SS-N.) B Storey.

2-50 (289A). R Gardiny 14-62 (229A). L Hyer 13-72 (2014).

FRIVOURTIES: 183-405 (402N).

RINICERED FIRST TOME: Job Rage (Visioned, 140).

Added 4YO 2m 2f
F5443 ASTRO LRES (45) 11 4 R Carrilly
F3 JOS RAGE (45) 17 4 S Wysen V
4 MCHOL FFTV (45) 11 4 R Thomson
331 REEDS (27) 7 4 Collegion
5 BRIANA (13) 15 7 R Supple
320 SAM FRANCISCO (28) 17 2 B Harding added 4YO 2m 2f

40 SEPENDE DO 102 50 SKY HOH (25) 102 F TAM O'SHAPTER (15) 102 COLLACCIA FOOD 107.

2.15 NOVICE CHASE (CLASS C) £7,000 edded 2m 1f

3.20 HANDICAP CHASE (CLASS C)

3.50 HUNTER CHASE (CLASS H) £3,000 added 3m 4f 1 FEP-IP ANDY BURNETT (CA) CO 8 C2 Life C Misson (7)
2 4-500 BUCK'S DELIGHT (14) O 2 2 Life M Bhubbarre FO
2 24-4F SHIGKIN DELIGHT (14) O 2 2 Life M Bhubbarre FO
4 25-FU FOOTSTURN (TA) 6 T 10 Life J Abouthar (7)
6 4-201 FOLHER LISSE FOT (6) VII 1 Life FORMS FOR (7)
7 P-203 FESTINAL FINANT (FOT) VII S Mar. L Bradburre (7)
8 FTTNIC: 11-4 Andy Bernet, 3-1 Stack's Dallight, 7-2 Emilyn
Emilt, 4-1 Craig Start, 8-1 Fortistons, 14-1 others

4.20 NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) (DIV I) \$2,500 added 2m 8f 110yds 2,500 added 2m 8f 110/08

-034 SPRIF OF STEEL BIS 18 5 _____ Collegian
-036 SPRIF OF STEEL BIS 18 5 ______ Collegian
-030 BROWFORD HOUSE (7) 8 0 2 ______ N BROWF
-030 BROWFORD HOUSE (7) 8 0 2 ______ N GROWF
-1-08 FORMER TRUE BIS 5 0 2 ______ R GROWF
-0 JACOUES THE LAD (89) 6 10 2 ______ S GROWF
-0 LANGUAL UNIE BIS 18 0 2 ______ S GROWF
-0 LANGUAL UNIE BIS 18 0 2 ______ S RIVER
-PURPEY UNIE BIS 6 0 2 ______ S RIVER
-PURPEY UNIE BIS 6 0 2 ______ S RIVER
-PURSONS GROWF BOY (27) 5 10 2 ... MARSON (2)
-0-0 SURSET RASH (80) 6 10 2 ______ E SKINY

1.40 NOVICE HURDLE (CLASS E) £3,000

—11 declared — BETTING: 9-4 Michol Filly, 7-2 Job Rage, 4-5 Autro Lines, 6-4 Seutile Art, 19-1 Reads, 14-1 San Francisco, 15-1 dillariz

1 MSM DOMINEMENTHENEST (13) 6 to 8 June 2 Ju

- 13 declared -BETTIME: 7-4 Monia Cresta, 5-1 Point Reyes, 7-1 Domykrook, Jone's Rives, 8-1 Single Sourcing, 18-1 Monotopy, 12-1 others

WINNINGA PAIR OF OYOTAS THIS WEEKEND IS EASY.

(THE DIFFICULT BIT WILL BE **DECIDING WHICH ONE** TO DRIVE FIRST.)







Poet fighting to be his own man

Tomorrow an unusual boxer seeks a world heavyweight title. Ken Jones reports from Atlantic City

WITH the list of accomplishments he is said to possess - gifted pianist, poet, chess hustler and fluency in French - Shannon Briggs could get boxing a

Truth has never hampered the sport's publicists. But if the projected image of Briggs does not fit with an upbringing in the same New York ghetto that produced Mike Tysoo and Riddick Bowe, there is evidence of capabilities that do not conform to the typecaster's idea of what a prizefighter's should he.

Briggs is articulate, amusing too, with a smile that breaks out frequently beneath the sprouting dreadlocks that give his head the appearance of a large pineapple. "I'm here to enjoy myself," he said this week, mean ing an attempt to take the World Boxing Council heavyweight championship from Leunox Lewis tomorrow at the Convention Center in Atlantic City.

On the Jersey shore a little more than two years ago Briges climbed into the ring against Darroll Wilson holding a record of 25 straight victories and the confidence of his associates and handlers.

If matchmaking can never be an exact science Wilson seemed perfect for the role of an opponent who can keep the pupil interested without presenting him with too much of a problem. Unimpressed by this estimate of his talents Wilson knocked Briggs out in the third round.

What happened in the dressing-room afterwards - Briggs hlamed the setback on an astbma attack - helps to explain the challenger's sunny disposition. "I was sitting there feeling sorry for myself," he said, "when I looked up and saw Lennox Lewis. Lennox told me that losing wasn't the end of the world, to get oo with things as he did after losing to the [world] title to Oliver McCall Legnox didn't have to do that and I'll always be grateful to him."

Remarks are invented for flood of his conversation. This does not bother Briggs because the representation is invariably favourable. "He's a nice kid," somebody said this week.



Niceness in fighters does would get the decision but only round," he said. "George hurt jor upset in the division, one that Briggs was too easily distractnot do much for the box office but Briggs wants nothing to do with the tasteless hyperbole many fighters now go in for. "I'm not here to play silly games," he said at a press conference oo Wednesday.

Briggs got this far through a cootroversial points decision over George Foreman last November that gave rise to rumours of a fixed cootest and an inves-

sey boxing commissioner, Larry Hazzard, of conspiring with two of the three official jodges to give Briggs the verdict.

because he was fighting a popular figure. "The crowd was behind George," he said, "cheering every punch he landed and not giving me any support. When the decisioo was announced it was like all my dreams were realised. I've had plenty of bad breaks you know."

It was oot only the loss to Wilsoo that made 1996 a bad year for the young new Yorker. tigation by the New Jersey Di- Soon afterwards a close friend with him has done a lot for my vision of Gaming Enforcement. was shot dead on the streets confidence. I'm having fun hut ness," Briggs said wheo the It eventually threw out a where he grew up and then his I'm very serious about this fight. suggestion was put to him.' Briggs on the basis that they are complaint from Foreman's pro- mother, who was fighting a I'm right back on track and sure to figure eventually in the moters, clearing the New Jer- drug hahit, died suddenly of a Lennox shouldn't expect an heart attack.

When Briggs found himself losing concentration against Foreman he thought about his Briggs is not given much chance

for her."

Briggs feels that the force of Foreman's punches, especially it will be tremendous if I can get man of him. "It's a thunderous jab," he recalled. "Every time he got through it was like being hit with a bat. Lennox is a big puncher but being able to take George's best shots and stay easy time hecause I'm going to

Going in at odds of 15-I Briggs did not think he mother. "It was in the eighth of causing what would be a ma-

me badly. I bit hard oo my would put paid to the prospect mouthpiece and said, this one's of a unifying bout between Lewis and Evander Holyfield. "I know that," Briggs said, "but the head-rattling jab, made a into the shake-up. There is an awful lot to fight for."

Lewis's serene countenance suggests that while he is taking the contest seriously enough he does not imagine that Briggs is capable of standing up to his firepower. "That's Lewis's busi-

has suffered in 30 paid cootests Briggs was abandoned by his then manager of record. Mike Marley, and the leading train-

er Teddy Atlas. Atlas's complaint was that ously.

ed by extra-curricular activities. "I guess we were oever going to get on with each other," the challenger said. "I have always tried to market myself," he admitted. "I get into that and so do my

fans. People came to see me because of my looks. Now they come to see me fight. But I'm always going to be Shannoo Briggs. I'm still rapping and modelling. I'm proud of doing well at school and if there'd been any mooey I would have Soon after the only defeat he gooe to college. There is more to Shanooo Briggs than a

> Trouble is that, apart from Muhammad Ali, fighting poets bave never heen takeo seri-

Crompton's rise from penury to prominence

FEW CHARACTERS in the game illustrate the ups and downs of the full-time rugby player's life better than Martin Crompton.

Crompton plays for Salford in the Challenge Cup semi-fi-nal against Sheffield Eagles tomorrow, but the other side of the coin is still fresh in his mind; the time when rugby league offered him no income and, it seemed, no prospects.

The captain of the Oldham Bears was one of the main victims of their collapse at the end of last season. They had no money to pay him and the Rugby League was reluctant to make him, and others in the same situation, a free agent.

"It was putting a tremendous strain on the family," Crompton says. "My wife was expecting our second child and there was no money coming in. I was managing to pay the mortgage. but it was money I'd put aside for a rainy day."

It was not just raining, it was pouring down and Cromptoo felt that the players were being left without an umbrella.

WARRINGTON have shelved

their plans to sign the Wigan

prop Lee Hansen because they

are over their salary cap, but

their coach, Darryl Van de

Veide, still believes that the sys-

tem should be applied strictly.

"It would have been a good

signing for us, but we are over

our cap and we accept that we

By Dave Hadfield

Dave Hadfield talks to Salford's fulcrum, who has exchanged the scrapheap for tomorrow's Rugby League Challenge Cup semi-final

"We didn't seem to be getby League. They should have stepped in and sorted it out," he says. "Once the club was unable. to pay us, it should have been a case of helping us to move

somewhere where they could." Some, including the then Oldham chairman, Jim Quinn, have since said that it was paying the players too well that contributed to the club's demise. Crompton, however, views it differently. "You can blame the players, but it's a short career and if someone offers you twice as

much as you've made before, you're going to accept it," he says. Besides, the average contract at Oldham was only around £20,000. Players had given up jobs paying £15,000 or so to go full time and you have to make it worth their while. If you can't do that, you're in a busi-

players' draft to go with it.

Wigan, St Helens and Lon-

don are arguing that they should

have more leeway - the first two

because of the extra expense of

retaining players in the face of

Australian raids three years ago

and London because they have

no reservoir of ready-made

was 50 per cent and they should

Velde, who is a strong advocate stick to it," said Van de Velde. deal could raise problems.

"But they knew that the rule

players on their doorstep.

Cromoton became so disitting much help from the Rag- husioned that he considered retiring at 28. Around the same time, he did bring down the curtain on his Great Britain prospects by leaving a training camp - reputedly to go fishing - when he was not selected in

> It is an episode he dislikes harking back to now. "But I'm old enough to make my own decisions and I'd make the same decision again," he says. "I'm still involved in international rugby as captain of Ireland - something that means a great deal to me.

Crompton was within minutes of signing for Halifar when Saiford stepped in, since when the upturn in his fortunes has been spectacular.

It was a signing that raised a few eyebrows. After all, Salford already had two specialist scrumhalves and were in negotiation for another they eventually enlisted, him when I was 17.

The Rugby League Council

Tulsen Tollett will not only

will consider Super League's

pleas for flexibility at its meet-

be in London's team to play

Wigan on Sunday, be is likely

to return to his former club from

Harlequins for the whole sea-

SOIL As London are already over

their limit, however, a long-term

Van de Velde still believes in salary cap

of the salary cap and of a "Otherwise, the game is head-

ing for rain."

ing on Wednesday.



Crompton: On a high

It looked like a return to the often frustrating days when Crompton had to fight for his place at Wigan - not that he was worried. "Twe never been afraid of competition," he says. "That's what keeps you on your toes."

However, Andy Gregory, the Salford coach, has solved the problem by playing Crompton at loose forward and now, three months after being one step from the dole office, he is one step from Wemhley, where he played for Warrington in their defeat by Wigan in 1990.

"Semi-finals are decided by whether the lads can treat it as a normal match," he says. "Players put themselves under so much pressure by thinking about Wembley. But Andy Gregory is very good at taking the pressure off you. He knows when to be serious and when to have a joke. I wish I'd played for

Leeds' prop Barrie McDer-

mott will miss the start of the

Super League season after

being suspended for one match

for a spear tackle and four for

fighting, both in the "friendly"

In Super League's games

around Britain in July the match

between London and Bradford

is likely to be staged at Hiber-

mians' Easter Road ground in

Edinburgh after the breakdown

of negotiations with Watford.

at York last week.

Plan for president to lead from top

Athletics

By Mike Rowbottom

BRITISH Athletics plans to introduce an all-powerful president atop a radically streamlined structure in the wake of last October's financial collapse.

Dave Moorcroft, chief execotive of UK Athletics 98, is in the middle of the a wide ranging consultation exercise over the reordering of the sport. Among the proposals which

have been agreed by a steering group under the chairmanship of Sir Christopher Chataway are the appointment of an unpaid presidential figure who would be responsible for the hiring or firing of a chief executive.

The president, who would be elected directly by club members, would probably serve for

a four-year period. The structure underneath would be devoid of the unwieldy decision-making so difficult.

Amateur Athletic Federation, but Moorcroft wants to ensure that the acrimony of previous years is not repeated and is seeking to win the hearts and minds of the rank and file, who will vote on new proposals this autumn. On 8 April in Birmingham Moorcroft will embark on the

Theoretically, all the new body needs to constitute itself

is the approval of the sports gov-

erning body, the International

first of a series of roadshows to gauge opinions and build on the suggestions of working parties involving athletes, administrators and the media.

Moorcroft has received clear indications that the English Sports Council is ready to increase funding significantly to support an appropriate structure.

The promotion of major domestic meetings will be contracted out. An announcement is expected over the successful bidder within a fortnight - with committees which made Alan Pascoe International thought to be the favourite.

Smith surges back into lead

Sailing

By Stuart Alexander

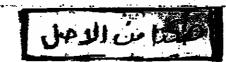
A PHENOMENAL 12-hour hurst of power sailing sent Lawrie Smith's Silk Cut surging back into the lead of the sixth leg of the Whitbread Round the World Race yesterday.

He had been trailing Paul Cayard's EF Language by first 20 miles, then 17, theo 12 and then, overnight, he rode a band of fresh, north-easterly trade wind to establish a 2.6-mile advantage. And, in the six hours running up to dawn, be averaged an astonishing 17 knots. It was the British skipper's

more northerly position as the fleet rounded the Caribbean island of Barbuda that gave him the smoother angle after the back markers had closed the gap in a

short period of lighter winds. Mark Rudiger, EF's navigator, said: "The hounds are descending on the fox, and we don't like it. The skipper has been up all night keeping the sail changes going through the squalls."

WHITEREAD ROUND THE WORLD RACE (shift log, 4,750 miles, São Sebestião, Bra. to Fort Lauderdaile, US): 1 Sib; Cut (GB) L Smith 1978 miles to finish; 2 EF Language (Swe) F Cayand 25 miles behind isader; 3 Swedish Malch (Swe) G Kranz +20,2; 4 Innovation (Westmer (Nor) K Prostad +991; 5 Marz Cup (Morraco) G Dalton +25,5 6 Rehiba (US) F Standardaile +918; 7 Chasse Recip (US) J Kostocid +254; 8 Brunel Surrecty (Neth) R Heingr + 126; 9 SE



. 'Non-contact' session puts ill-fated Rodber out of Northampton's semi-final

Rugby Union

By Chris Hewett

TIM RODBER spent vesterday lunchtime limping forlornly around the decks of HMS Monmouth, which was something of a high-risk venture given the Northamptoo captain's growing reputation as an accident waiting to happen. Rodber, a cap. piped aboard to help launch this

season's Inter-Services Cham- this summer's four-Test trek during a gentle "walk-through" pionship, but he was under- around the southern hemisphere. session in Versailles. standably preoccupied by the latest delay to the relaunch of the minest suggested the ill-

worse, he may struggle to make when he twanged a hamstring Sale. Alex King is back in harness land winger, David Rees.

The bitter irony is that Rod-

own his injury-plagued England fated 10 minutes of league as a means of finishing a hitherto Rodber will definitely miss _non-contact session with a bang. this weekend's Tetley's Bitter It was the final indignity in a long Cup semi-final with Saracens at series of recent fitness setbacks Franklins Gardens after tearing that have proved embarrassing a ligament in his right knee dur- as well as depressing last month,

Saracens will almost certainly travel without their left-wing, Brendon Daniel, who pulled a hamstring on Wednesday at Newcastle. Paddy Johns, their Irish international lock. also failed to go the distance.

There was better news on the fitness front for Wasos as they fi-

after two months of muchneeded rest and recuperation of his right knee which means Gareth Rees resumes at full-back for the injured Paul Samuson.

They have further reshuffled their back division by shelving two out-of-form internationals. · Andy Gomarsall and Kenny Logan. Mike Friday and Laurence Scrase get the nod at scrum-half ing an impromptu bout of rugby Rodber was invalided out of nalised preparations for tomor- and left-wing respectively. A league during club training. Far England's squad against France row's second semi-final with groin injury keeps out Sale'a Eng-

scenes back-biting at The Stoop fore the 1998/99 campaign," said were strongly denied by Harlequins officials yesterday, despite the news that Zinzan Brooke, the great All Black No 8, was about but the latest outbreak of player to relieve Andy Keast of the coaching reins. "Zinzan will take over the coaching martle for the remaining matches this season

and this will allow Andy the time

and playing structure - a project

that needs urgent attention with

Rumours of more behind the- less than five months to go bethe club in a statement.

Management sources insisted discontent, something of an annual event, is gathering momentum. The first-team dressing-room did for Dick Best almost exactly a year ago and it he needs to review the coaching will be no great surprise if his replacement goes the same way sooner rather than later.

Nations finale with England tomorrow week with the same side that lost to Wales in Dublin that neast's position was secure six days ago. The Welsh have made one change for their match with France, however: Smart Davies, the 32-year-old No & comes into the back row at the expense of Kingsicy Jones. Colin Charvis, another Swansea loose forward, moves to the open side to accommodate his club-mate.

Henman's plan to repel Rios

Tennis

IT HAS to be said that Tim Henman keeps the best of company on the practice courts as British No 1, who was defeatwell as on the match courts. His ed by Rios, 6-3, 6-7, 7-6, 6-4, in hitting partners number Stefan Edberg (at London's Queen'a fornia, 12 days ago. Cluh), Pete Sampras. Andre Agassi, Goran Ivanisevic and Marcelo Rios, the world No 1 clect, who today stands beween Henman and a place in Sunday's final of the Lipton Championships, the higgest tournament ootside the four Grand Slams,

Should Ríos advance to win the title here, he would supplant Pete Sampras at the head of the game, becoming only the 14th No I since the ATP rankings began in 1973, and the second to reach the summit without having a Grand Slam champi- aspect of my game, I think onship on his CV (Ivan Lendl when I've been playing badly, rose to No 1 in 1983, a year be- I've probably been a little too fore opening his Grand Slam account at the French Opeo).

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years tend heldblock

There are those who would argue that Rios is not good company, on the court or off it -Sports Illustrated marked Oscars' gressive. I think I've volleyed week by nominating him as pretty well. It's stupid not to use "The Most Hated Man in Ten- those shots." nis" and reporters covering the Freoch Open have awarded "I practise a lot with him, he's him the Prix Citron ("Lemon a great serve and volley player, Prize") for non-cooperation for. very tough to beat if he's play- his game." the past two years - but he is ing good, and he's playing realidolised in Chile and can look ly good," the world No 3 said. forward to passionate support Court today.

Familiar though Henman is underlined his ability to raise his ryingly poor form.

perience. That was certainly the case for Greg Rusedski, the the final at Indian Wells, Cali-

consult his Davis Cup teammate to know the score. "Rios" definitely is playing the best tennis of anyone at the moment," the 23-year-old from Oxford said. "He's been very consistent this year, very difficult to beat. my other matches this week, try to be aggressive, try to serve well and dominate the net.

"I'm playing very simple tennis, but it's very effective. I think that's what's paying off. Serve and volley is an important cautious, a little oegative, playing too much from the baseline. It's pretty clear when I've been playing my best tennis over the last week I have been very ag-

Rios is alert to the pattern.

day a play at 209 for 3.

He contributed 52 in a 68-

run opening stand with the

Australia's best start so far in

the series and then added 66 for

Waugh, who made an unbeat-

en 58 after surviving a close call those fours and one six came on

when the ball failed to dislodge the second morning yesterday

the stumps when he played oo when he made 60 off 64 balls.

with Rios's warm-up shots, game against quality opposition, competing against the 22-year-old Chilean will be a new exchampion, in the semi-finals in

Thomas . Enqvist, whose dodgy wrist broke down on Wednesday night, causing the rnia, 12 days ago. Swede to retire when trailing Henman did not need to Rios, 3-6, 0-2, in the quarterfinals, predicts that the Chilean will have the edge over Henman

You have to say that Rios is a favourite," Enqvist said. "He's been playing really well this year. He played very good ten-My game plan will be similar to inisiast week in Indian Wells, and also this week here. If he gets control in the rallies, you're in trouble. You have to play ag-

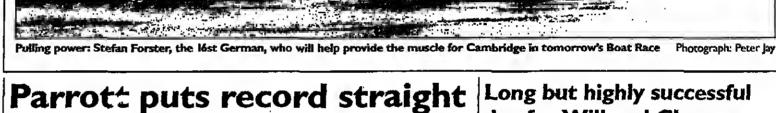
Although Rios's talent with a racket is unquestionable, Rios suffered a major psychological let-down when playing Korda in the Australian Open final, "It was his nerves," explained his coach, the American Larry Stefanki, a former adviser to John McEnroe. "Marcelo's feet didn't move, and with him, movement is everything."

The Australian Todd Woodbridge noted that, "You beat Rios by outhustling him, keeping him off balance, mixing up your angles and speeds. When he's uncomfortable, he's out of

Rios might have the vocif-Henman's back-to-back wins the crowd, bot Florida bas Grand Slam champions, Petr style since be arrived here de-Korda and Gustavo Kuerten, termined to end a run of wor-

Slater's innings gives Australia a respite of India's 424 to end the second to off-spinner Venkatapathy Earlier, Sachin Tendulkar hit a brilliant 177 as India took their captain, Mark-Taylor (14), for overnight score of 290 for 4 to 424 before being all out 20 minutes after lunch. Tendulkar hit the third wicket with Mark 29 boundaries and three sixes in

his five-hour imnings, nine of



Snooker

JOHN PARROTT ended a run cross backing of the Latins in Mark Williams by beating the after-dinner speaking circuit. Welshman in the quarter-fifrom local Hispanics the mo- this week against two current warmed to Henman's fluent nals of the Benson and Hedges to take when I stop playing, but tance, plus pink and black us-Irish Masters at Golfs yesterday.

However, after recording a 6-3 victory. Parrott conceded his days as one of the game's leading lights are coming to an end. There's no way I've got

five or six more seasons left in me," said Parrott, the 1991 World and UK champion, who will be 34 in May. "When I'm away I'm hankering for home, so there's oo chance of me traipsing around the world wheo I'm 40.

"My attitude is to make the most of what I've got while it lasts. I'll know when to pack the cue away when practice becomes a chore and when competition stops giving me a buzz."

Parrott, a resident captain on have come so close to the first BBC's A Question of Sport, is a 147 maximum in the 21-year hisregular guest on television tory of the competition, at least shows and also spends an inof three consecutive defeats by creasing amount of time on the £3,000 highest break bonus

"That's the direction I want right oow my attention is fully on snooker and trying to win trophies again," said the Liverpudlian, who has oot won a title since the European Open in 1996.

Parrott-stole the first frame and moved 2-0 ahead thanks to a run of 45, before Williams seslice of tournament history. The attacking left-hander

potted the first 14 reds with 14 hlacks in frame three. But, having dislodged the last red from its awkward position oo the side cushion, he oarrowly missed a hard pot to a baulk pocket. Williams, disappointed to

became front-runner for a with his run of 112.

By sinking the blue from dising the rest, Parrott regained the advantage of 3-2 only for Williams to draw level with a stylish 101 break. After that, though, Williams

hit the wall and Parrott dominated the remainder of the conwith a yellow-to-pink clearance test. In pulling away from 3-3 to 6-3, Parrott totalled 236 points while conceding only 19. He will riously threatened to create a play the winner of the all-Irish quarter-final between Ken Doherty and Fergal O'Brien.

"Mark's supremely talented and knocks in some ridiculous pots, so the approach to playing him is very important," Parrott said. "The key is to accept that you won't get a sniff for a

Long but highly successful day for Will and Chapman

ROGER CHAPMAN, a European Tour player, and Ken Will, vived a morning marathoo and two more in the next six, missed then three times came from behind to win their quarter-final at the Sunningdale Foursomes over the Old Course yesterday.

Chapman won this event with George Will, Ken's father, in 1979 and is now only two matches away from completing the unique double of winning with both father and son.

most of the morning round beholders, Julie Hall, a former Curtis Cup player, and Helen Wadsworth, who plays on the women's European Tour, at the 24th hole. Chapman and Will might have won at the 18th.

birdie three finished in the jaws of the bole. Will then had to sink a 12-foot putt at the 20th to keep the match alive, while Hall and Wadsworth, who received sevand amateur from Kent, sur- en shots in the first 18 holes and a chance of victory when the took three putts at the 23rd. The match finally eoded at

> the 24th where the men were on the green io two, and got their four, but the women found sand. Wadsworth came out to three feet, but Hall missed the putt to lose an absorbing match. In the afternoon, Chapman

Yet it was touch and go for and Will beat Gary Emerson. another European Tour player, fore Chapman and Will beat the aod the Broadstone professional, Nigel Tokely, 3 and 2.

Emersoo and Tokely three times led by one hole, but each time Chapman and Will levelled before winning four holes running and then halving their way few frames and not to panic." where the former's putt for a to victory at the 16th.

Bangalore. The tourists, facing clean sweep in the threeich series, made a bold chase

Australia 209-3

Sporting Digest Emma, George, the Australian pole vauliar, yesterday broke the women's indoor world record with a clearance of 455 meres at a meeting in her home town of Adelaida.

MICHAEL SLATER hit a flu-

ent 91 to lead the Australian

fightback yesterday in the third

and final Test against Iodia in

NBA: them 105 Boston 91; Houston 86 In-ciona 81; Detroit 103 San Antonio 94; New Jenney 81; Friedciphia 96; Chicago 85 Or-lando 70; Dellas, 105 Deriver 94; Minnesota, 99 Primite 97; Seattle 153 Westington 109; New York 77; LA Cippers 76; LA Lakors 114 Sacramento 91.

TODAY'S NUMBER

Temorrow sees the 114th Varsity tootball match when Oxford take on Cambridge at Craven Cottage, the home of Fufnam, at 230pm. The referee will be David Eleray, whose last engagement was the international friendly between Germany and Brazi on Wertnesday.

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Manchester 75 Birm-inghem 88; Grester London 96 Watford 84; Crystal Pelace 67 London Towers 84; Derby 73 Thermos Valley 71.

Pusses Andrei Kancheleids yesterdey announced he was retiring from in-

ternational football. The former Manternational codeal. It is normer ware chester United and Everton winger is only 28, but said he wants to concentrate his efforts on playing for Florentina in italy's Serie A.
INTERNATIONAL PRIENDLY (Bogota): Colombia 0 Yugostavia 0. PROTEINS IS IN I MANY & GRAND P.

INTERNATIONAL PRIENDLY (Bogota):
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Wigoniava D. Vare RESULTS: International Prismothers Settement 1 England 1:
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League Pramier Division: Manchester Utd D Liverpool 1 (et Bury): Notingham Forest 2 Shoffled Wedneschy 2 Fest Division: Balton 1 Hutdersfield 3 (et Leigh RMI); Crimsby 0 Mic-clesbrough 0: Por Valle 3 Manchester City 3 Second Division: Stocipor 1 Floridate 2 (et

disstrough 0: Port Valis 3 Manchester City 3: Second Divisions Stockport 1 Prochais 2 (at Hydr Vlad); York 2 Biscippod 0: Postponed: Bursley v Lincoln Cay, Triver Divisions: Chester 1 Bury 0; Hull 3 Chesterfield 0; Sentborough 3 Doncester 0; Wigen 1 Southcrope 2 Leegus Cup quarter-lines: Western 1 Derby 0; Avon Inserance Combination First Division: Southampton D Portamouth 0; for Steph-erood); Swindon 2 Crystal Palace 1; Wimble-don 0 Westerd 0 (at Plago Lane); The Times PA Youth Cup 18th-round replays Biscidum 2 Cheless 0, Outloth League: Wisnelm 2 NEC Namegen 0; William II Tiburg 4 Grovingen 2 INV Massiricht 2 De Grussinchup Dosfirchem 1; PSV Enchrone 2 Rode JC Kerirade 0; RIC Wester 5 Twente Enachede 1; Forums Study of Processor Study 1 Feyerocol 2; Vilesses Anthem 4 NAC Brade 1 Teyrocol 2 Rode Item 1 Sept Beelkins 1 Geldstassary 1.

Golf
SWHMMDALE FOURSOMES (Combined hundicage in brackerts) Fourth round (Old course): R Chapman (European Tour) and K Will (Knish Parti) (+ 1) at I still (Leckyamid and H Wisteworth (Womer's European Tour) (5) at 24th; G Emseann (Salethury and S Wils) end N Tokely (Broadstone) (+2) bt M Painner (Mill N Tokely (Broadstone) (+2) bt M Painner (Mill Rids) and G Walmsley (unled) (+2) 4 and 3; 3 Barwick and G Woodman (East Beristhin) (scr) bt I. Farmer and K Lunn (Moor Parti) (1) 2 and 1; R Hodgidnan (Lindred) and P Carr (Surningdels) (scr) bt T Wheals (Mills) and 9 Carr (Surningdels) (scr) bt T Wheals (Mills) and P Carr (Surningdels) (scr) bt T Wheals (Mills) and P Carr (Surningdels) (scr) bt T Wheals (Mills) and D Index (Saleth Roads) and D Rizzimmons (Harpenden Common) (+2) 2 and 1; O Lindsey (Linfanses Movi and S Tel (Mills) (scr) bt R Farmick (Bogror Regist) and L Wisters (Trent Parti) (+2) bt S Andrew and L Stattery (Citharrey) (+1) 2 and 1; R Misra and M Audrey-Pietcher (Surning-

delej (+1) br. J. Marshall (Westerhern) and M. Mollen (European Your) (+2) 3 and 2. Observations of Will be Emergene and Will be Emergene and Teleby 3 and 2; Hodglereon and Carr bt Berwick and Westerhe 5 and 4; Bernett and Figher bt Linday and Pile 3 and 2; Hurd and Jones bt Mars and Aubrey-Rietcher 1 hole.

Rugby League

Rugby Union
The Scottish Rugby Union yesterday armounced that the four current professional districts will be halved into two "super districts" as of next seatwo "super districts" as of next season. The governing body will merge
the playing and coaching resources
of the Caledonia and Glasgow districts,
and those of the other two regional
outfits, Schnburgh and Scottish Borders. 50 players will be then be contracted to the Union via the two
professional teams, and henceforth
play exclusively for those teams and
no longer with their clubs.
RPELAND (V England, Five Nations' Chemplomatile, Twictenhum, 4 Aprill; C Cliente,
(Ismarus College); R Wallers (Sarzeons),
K Meggs (Bristo), R Henderson (Waspe),
In Holdie (Si Mary's College); E Etwood (Galweigers), C IlleGuinresse (Si Mary's College);
R Corrigen (Greystones), K Wood (Heriequins, capt), P Wallers (Sarzeons), P Johns
(Sarzeons), M O'Kelty (London Inst), O Conte

Coutello (St Mury's College). Replacements from: M McCall (London krish), O Humphreys (London krish), B O'Meara (Cork Constitution), M Galerey (Shannon), Popplewell (Newcastio), P Clohessy (Young America, R Nascate (Newcastio), E Millor

(Leicester).

WALES (v. France, Five Nations' Chempicreshie, Weshiey Stadista, 5 Aprill; K. Morgan (Fortypridd); W. Procsor (Lianell), A. Battessen (Richmond), L. Devise (Cardif), G. Thomas (Cardif); N. Jenkins (Portypridd), R. Howiey (Cardif), opi; A. Lewise (Cardif), O. Jenkins (Swansea), D. Young (Cardif), N. Voyte (Lianell), A. Moore (Swansea), R. Appisyard (Swansea), C. Chervis (Swansea), R. Appisyard (Swansea), R. Criteris, S. Davies (Swansea), Replacements: N. Boobyer (Lianell), B. Hayward (Ebbw Vale), S. Pavy (Cardif), X. Jones (Ebbw Vale), S. Roy (Portypridd), K. Jones (Ebbw Vale), S. Roy (Portypridd), L. Muster (Cardif), J. Hausse (Cardif), J. Hayward (Swansea), D. James (Portypridd), M. Maylor (Swansea), O. James (Portypridd), J. Thomas (Swansea), A. Hoore (Fichmond, capt); A. Griffiths (Portypridd), R. McShyde (Lianell), C. Anthony (Swansea), C. Supherse (Stidgend), B. Lovellyn (Portypridd), J. Walessen, C. Wylesterley (Swansea), C. Wwicow (Lianell), O. Liewellyn (Swansea), C. Wwicow (Lianell), O. Liewellyn (Swansea), C. Wwicow (Lianell), O. Liewellyn (Ebbw Vale), J. Boobyer (Nesth), J. Googh (Birthynori, N. Kymon (Fortypridd), B. Williams

(Ebbw Vale), I Boobyer (Nemil), I (Newport), N Byron (Pontypridd), B W (Richmond), I (Picthrond), I (Picthrond) April): 2 McDowell (Ballymens): J McVisency (St Mary's College), M Murphy (Galwejers), P Dulgaran (Galwejers), D O'Mahony (Mossley); K Keene (Gury-owen), S Michaer (Barryowen): J Pitzpetrick (London Irish), S Jedismen (Contart), O Waleb (Garryowen), G Futcher (London Heh) copt, O Essiden (Sole), T Bremmen (St Mary's College), K Daweln (London Heh), D O Cult-mencals (Sale), Molecements: O Cretity WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Allie Durber Premierable One: Newcastle 3 Stancers 25 Representative Match: Nort Michaels 41 RAF 5 Tour Match: Englan

Snooker CHALLENGE MATCH: Hui 42 Shetfield 48

Squash
WOMEN'S WORLD GRANO PRIX
(Nurphada, Ep) Third qualifying round:
Pool Ac S Fitz-Gerald (Aus) bt Living (Aus)
9-5 9-2 9-5; C Jackman (Eng) bt C Owens
(Aus) 4-8 9-10 10-8-9 1-9-6 Pool B Mestin (Aus) bt S Wright (Eng) 9-0 6-9 9-0 9-6;
S Homer (Eng) bt 2 Schone (Ger) 6-5 8-6
S-9 9-5.

Tennis LIPTON CHAMPIONSHIPS (Key Blaceyne, Fist) Men's alegiae, quarter-firelis: Theretan (65) bt G Kuerten (67s) 5-6-4; M Rics (Chie) bt T Erqves (5we) 5-3-2-0 mt. Women's alegiae, quarter-dinele. Y Williams (US) bt S Fanna (8) 6-1 6-2; A Kournicous (Rus) bt L Daverport (US) 6-4-2-6-8-2-A Sanchez Vicano (Sp) bt J Novoter (17-8-0-) 6-1 6-1.

Ivno (Lembs Club, London)

Today's fixtures

Football 7.30 unless stated NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGUE SECOND DIVISION Bristol Rovers v Southend (7.45) ...

DR MARTENS LEAGUE Midland Di Pagel Rangors v tkoston. UNIJET 2USSEX LEAGUE John

TOUR MATCH (one day): Bari Chancelor's XI v England (1335) Baskethall

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Sheffiold Shorks Newcastle Engles (730). Speedway

ing (730)
PRIEMER LEAGUE CUP: Peterborough v Ex-efter (745).
CHALLENGE: Oxford v Kings Lyrin (745). Isk-of Wight v Newport (730).
INDIVIDUAL: Essex Championship (80) jat Arene Essex.

Other sports BADMINTON: Friends Provident British Grand Stem (Welsh Institute of Sport, Cardill). 9000NG: Professional promotion (Tofford Ice Rink). GOLP: Sunningdale Fourson SNOOKER: Benean and Hegas inch Master (Goffs Club, Kit, County Kildaro).



Where can you play TopGear's Fantasy Formula I on the web and win a trip Down Under?



Gazza looks forward and back

Simon Turnbull sees Gazzamania but on a reduced scale, as a national hero returns home

THE last time Paul Gascoigne was afforded a hero's welcome on English soil he flashed a pair of plastic breasts for the cameramen and the 150,000 members of the public who had brought Luton Airport to a standstill. He flashed that once familiar square-jaw grin too.

Gazzamania on Teesside yesterday was not quite like the original midsummer outbreak eight years ago, when the clowning Geordie tugged at the nation's heartstrings with the tears he shed in the World Cup semifinal in Turin.

Only 1,500 locals ventured down to the Riverside to see the blubbering face of 1990 unveiled in a Middlesbrough shirt. And that face had clearly been marked by time.

"Do you think you could smile, Paul ?" a photographer implored as Gascoigne's sevenminnte press conference drew to a close. He duly obliged, but departed wearing the same fu-nereal mask which had shrouded the proceedings.

"I'm very excited," was his opening line when asked how it felt to be joining Middlesbrough, His demeanour suggested otherwise. So did his stern countenance and, by degrees, his words too.

When the attendant representative of the Caledonian press corps probed the raw oerve, in check. "I'm not really going to get involved in that," be replied when asked if he felt he had been pushed out by Rangers.

He was soon, however, be- by his exit from Ibrox. trayed by his feelings. "I was really upset I left the way I did," Gascoigne confessed and High Court that Gascoigne duly emphasised the point was more famous than the while attempting to steer away Duke of Wellington had been



Friendly face: Despite his sadness about his departure from Rangers, Paul Gascoigne was able to smile with his new manager, Bryan Robson, yesterday

to get Rangers into the Pre-

Getting Rangers out of his system might take more time than helping Middlesbrough back into the Premiership. And that could Gascoigne initially held the hurt be a good thing for Boro, and for England. At 30, Gascoigne is back in his native North-east of England with a point to prove. His pride has clearly been wounded

Two months after the tears of Turin it was suggested in the from the subject. "The most in 1815. Eight years on, Scoty years) Gascoigne would ap- bly need 10 days training and a service, last autumn.

important thing," he said, "is tish football did not want to know him.

It remains to be seen whether Gazza met his Waterloo in Go-bought the best midfield playvan. Dick Advocaat might have deemed him unsuitable for his intended Ibrox blend but in Bryan Robson's opinion be is still an intoxicating spirit.

Gascoigne is the 14th player for whom Robson has paid £1m or more in his four years as Middlesbrough's manager. His spending on transfer fees alone now stands at the £45m mark.

At an estimated £10m (£3.45m to Rangers, the rest in

pear to be an expensive gamble. Robson begged to differ.

"I know, when he's fit, I've er in Britain," he said. "There's no doubt about that."

There is no doubt, either, that such faith is reciprocal, "Tve come here not just to play in the North-east," Gascoigne said, "but to play for my favourite player, one of the guys I idolised. I'm just pleased to be part of Bryan's plans for the next three and a half years."

Gascoigne, by his own estimation, has joined his boyhood wages over three and a half bero "70 per cent fit". "I proba-most recent nights of national

couple of games," he said. "As soon as I get 100 percent fit you'll see the best of Paul Gascoigne."

At cinb level the best of Paul Gascoigne, however, has not been seen for more than a year now. His form, like his fitness, has been fitful since the January night last year when he suffered ankle damage clattering into the Ajax goalkeeper, the appositely named Fred Grim.

Not that Gascoigne would agree. Asked about his chances of featuring in Glenn Hoddle's World Cup plans, he pointed to the praise that followed his

"After the Moldova and Italy terval. Gascoigne is unlikely to matches you lot wrote I was one be unleashed from the start, as of the greatest things since

go on my last two games for England I would say my chances are good." The chances of Boro's new boy featuring in their hig day on in the squad - that's all I'm say-

would face Chelsea in the Coca-Cola Cop final. It seems certain, though, that Robson's new recruit will play some part, probably of

asked whether Gascoigne

Photograph: Alisport

he was with a painful vengeance in his last club match in Engsliced bread," he said, "If you land, the 1991 FA Cup final. The kamikaze challenge on Gary Charles will doubtless be

recalled on Sunday. But there is another side to the Gazza Sunday are even better. "He's coin, one that could possibly pay a quick dividend for Middlesing," Robson replied when brough and their gambling manager. Not that Robson had the best of luck with luxury items yesterday. His new Mercedes collided with a truck as he arrived at the Riverside.

agreement."

Hoddle leans towards

Hussain keen on role as captain

Cricket

ADAM HOLLIOAKE yesterday ruled himself out as successor to Mike Atherton as England's Test captain, but said he wanted to keep the one-day job after his success in Sharjah in December.

That was in stark contrast to Nasser Hussain. The England vice captain, who has not been included in the one-day squad, said oo his return home that he. did want the Test job.

urdoci cret ti

"I'm very keen," Hussain said. "I'd love to captain Eng-land. I couldn't think of a greater thing to do."

Hollioake does not think he will be offered the job by the selectors, David Gravency, Mike Gatting and Graham Gooch, nor would it be a disappointment to him. He said: "I would not want it at the moment because I have not proved myself in Test cricker.

"I have only played in three Tests, plus the Jamaican affair at the start of this tour, and I believe you have to earn your spot as a please first.

one-day captain, because my one-day record is good."

England's one-day team play a warm-up game against a Vice-Chancellor's XI today in preparation for Sunday's opening one-day international against the West Indies.

Hussain was both realistic and philosophical about his role in the England set-up. "There are two or three candidates who I am sure are very keen to do the job," he said. "If it doesn't go my way then it's not the end of the world.

"The captaincy is not the beall and end-all to me because I enjoy just playing for England, but I've done two years in the vice-captaincy role, I've sat in on selection and tactics and virtually captained every ball in my head anyway so it wouldn't be a huge change for me.

"Tve got a few ideas of my own and a few things that I

"Sky have a set of proposals would like to do." on the table but no pay-per-view can be introduced without the OPublished by Newspaper Publishing PLC. Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London agreement of the Premier League clubs," Mike Lee, a Pre-E14 5DL, and printed at Mirror Colour

mier League spokesman, said. "Pay-per-view has always been a part of our broadcasting 840370. Spurs wage bill soars, page 26

newspaper with the Post Office .

for cannabis in

Print, St Albuns Road, Watford

Poldar 27 March 1996

Dons sign £1.75m Kennedy on quiet deadline day

Transfers

rine transfers of undisclosed fees unless stated

Mark Kennedy Liverpool to Wimbledon (2.15m); Lars Bohkien Blackburn to Derby (2.45m); Seas Curcic Aston Vila to Crystal Palace (2.1m); Philippe Clement Genk (Bel) to Coventry (0.25,000); Eddie Youda Bradford City to Charlton (255,000; Shaun Gowter Bristol City to Merchaster City (2.00,000); lan Hamilton West Bromwich to Sheffled Utd (2.25,00); Steve Charldge Lelicester to Wolves (2.35,000); Mille Corrory Fuham to Blackpool (25,0000); Robert Fleck Norwich to Reading (25,000); Imm McInityre Klimarnock to Reading; Coelmo Sarll Torino to Southampton; General Formation (1.15); Robert Sarll Torino to Southampton; General Formation (1.15); Robert Larno Glaffanca Nantee to Bolton; Johnsthan Greenlag York to Manchester Lidt; Robble Saber Southampton to Wolves; Neil Emblen Crystal Palace to Wolves; Kleron Durkan Stockport to Naccienficit; Christian Edwards Swensea to Nottingham Porest; Neil Gregory Ipswith to Colchester; Lee Hols-

ACROSS

Trouser material we get

5 House commonly having

9 The latest thing in ties?

(3.5)
10 Fighting a case in the courts (6)
12 Tiny cedilla's misplaced.

all the same (11)

15 Mischievous types such as you lot? Not haif (5)
17 Device for working out, one duellers knocked

around (5-4)
18 Constant fiddling with gun

in case (9)
Mare and others appearing to be in the lead, perhaps? (5)

from Adrian's family (8)

more than one such ad-

grove Milwell to Wycombe; Andy Hugh-es Oldham to Notis County; Seett Par-tridge Cardiff to Torquay; Michael Polit Notis County to Sunderland; Chris Wilder Bredford City to Shaffield Utd.

LOARS

Net Ruddock Liverpool to Cuser's Park Rangers, John Seleko Coventry to Bolion; Seen McCarthy Oldram to Bristol City; Peter Beegrie Bradford City to Eversor, Greener Brosilinson Manchester Utd to Mewall; Mohanamed Bertine Ajaccio (Fr) to West Ham; Robert Hughee Aston Villa to Carlisle; Les Seeley West Ham to Bury; Peter Beardsley Bolton to Fulham; Matthew Bosseel Port Valle to Bernet; Matthew Bosseel Port Valle to Bernet; Matthew Bosseel Fort Valle to Bernet; Matthew Bosseel City to Charlton; Robert Hughes Aston Villa to Carlisle; Rey Kelly Manchester City to Wadnam; John Mullin Sunderland to Burrier; Jaseon Mullin Sunderland to Burrier; Jaseon

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

20 Confident person with life 6

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matically follow each other 16

By Rupert Metcalf

THE largest deal on a quiet transfer deadline day saw Liverpool's Republic of Ireland forward Mark Kennedy leave Anfield for a fee of £1.75m. His destination was not Queen's Park Rangers, where he recently spent a successful loan

spell, but Wimbledon. Having lost out on Kennedy, OPR had better luck with another Liverpool reserve: Neil Ruddock. "It's oot been the happiest of times up there in Merseyside oot getting a chance," said the rugged centreback, who has moved to Loftus Road on loan for the rest of the

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fering space to park jum-

showing how to get out?

Copbearer needing space

in which to manoeuvre?

One with role in slapstick

performance? (5-5)
Tale designed for senior citizens who are into rock?

Cricket team in Egypt

Pass the bananas (4)

comedy, tarty sort (7,3)

14 The middle part of the

21 Way drink makes us play-badly (5)

Mark on vehicle, indica-

tion of Swedish origin (4)

Neglect to bring up items in testimonial (4)

bo, maybe? (9)

to come to Rangers."

Aston Villa's Serbian midfielder Sasa Curcic has finally completed his on-off £1m move to the Premiership strugglers Crystal Palace. The 26-year-old has signed a three-year contract at Selhurst Park.

The Palace player-coach, Attilio Lombardo, said: "Sasa is a quality attacking midfielder and becomes a key member of our squad in our fight against relegation."

Coventry have signed the midfielder Philippe Clement from the Belgian club Genk in a deal worth £625,000. The 23year-old will not join the Sky

Blues until the summer, but than most wide players in the their manager, Gordon Stra- country," Howard Kendall, the chan, said: "I have never seen Everton manager, said. anyone so excited about signing for the club."

Leaving Coventry is the for-Salako, who has joined Bolton until the end of the season after a trial at the Dutch club, Feyenoord, did not work out.

Manchester City have signed the Bermudan striker Shaun Goater from Bristol City for £400,000 while a former City ket, pay-per-view football winger, Peter Beagrie, has re-turned to another of his previturned to another of his previ-

Wolves won the race for the capture of Leicester's Steve Claridge, paying £350,000 for mer England forward John the veteran striker. Charlton Athletic have signed the Bradford City defender Eddie Youds for £550,000, while the West Bromwich midfielder Ian Hamilton has joined Sheffield Unit-

ed for £325,000. Away from the transfer marous clubs, Everton, on loan from Bradford City. He can still provide more ammunition

League instructed a party to look at pure still provide more ammunition. Sky Television.

Couples blows hot to put Woods and Els in the shade

Golf

By Andy Farrell in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida

FRED COUPLES does not appear on many leaderboards these days, which may be because he does not play that often. Couples either blows hot or cold, nothing in between, but when he is on, watch out. This might be only the American's sixth appearance of the season, but be has already won once, at

A first-round 67 on a blustery morning on the Sawgrass course gave Couples the early clubhouse lead in the US Players' Championship. He led by two from Ben Crenshaw, Billy Mayfair and Joe Ozaki. Couples has won the event twice before, but until January had not won again since his second victory here in 1996.

the Bob Hope Classic.

Problems in his personal life, including the death of his father, plus continuing back trouble left Couples winless last year, but the old instincts are still there. "I still feel competitive," he said. "Winning the Bob Hope was big deal for me and I wouldn't come if I didn't feel I could compete. This is a good course for me. With this round, I feel I am ready to play well." very hard for anything I get at the

possible start by birdieing the second, third and fourth, holing from 40 feet at the par-three third. He also finished well, with birdies at the par-five 16th and the famous 17th, the par-three with an island green where he had a hole-in-one last year.

The 38-year-old former Masters champion took the spotlight away from Tiger Woods and Emie Els. Woods could do no better than a level par, while Els slipped back to a 71 after reaching four under with six to play. John Daly also had a 71 despite a double-bogey when he found the water at the fourth.

Lee Westwood, who is playing here for the first time, could not quite take advantage of his early tee time. Conditions were perfectly still when the 24-yearold began at the 10th, but he could only manage a two-over 74.

The main damage was done at the fourth, where his drive ended under the lip of a bunker. Westwood did not catch the ball as cleanly as he was hoping and saw it go into the water for a double-bogey six. His two birdies came from a long two-putt at the par-five second and a 10-footer at the sixth. As last week in Orlando, the putts are not dropping for him. "I am having to work Couples got off to the best moment," Westwood said.

got up. It is the kind of course where if you have only played it a couple of times, it seems very difficult. You need the experience of where you can miss the greens, and where you can't."

Someone with that experience is Nick Faldo but his frustrating run continued with a 75. The could only manage two birdies in leave himself in danger of missing the cut for the second running. It was not a good morning for the Europeans with Costantino Rocca scoring a 76.

While the defending champion, Steve Elkington, was forced to withdraw on Tuesday after not recovering from sinus surgery in time, his countryman Greg Norman did not make it to the first tee either, Norman. the Sawgrass tournament record holder at 24 under par, aggravated an old injury in his left shoulder and was advised to rest.

But unless the Australian plays in New Orleans next week, he will be seriously undergolfed going into the US Masters. Norman has played just five times so far this year.

CHINES SO'. BRT (IIIS YEST.)
PLAYERS' CHIMMPONEHRY (Sungraus,
Portic Vadra, Forrick) Early Insufing Not roundaccess (US traines stated), 67 F Couples, 69
N Czald (Japan), S Hayrid, B Crearine, 70 T
Tyte, J Foryk, B Andreds, 71 S Johns, T Wesson, J Cook, J Day, D Rome, N Pieter (Zan), C
Sactist, T Amous, E Ets (SN), 8 Cnic, 72 D Suffer,
T Amous, E Ets (SN), 8 Cnic, 72 D Suffer,
T Hard, J Hanton, B Facon, F Nobo (NZ), T Whods,
P Bicchare, 73 G Harsted, (Sna), F Flark, M
Books, M Hubert, Selectade, 74 L Westhood
(GB), 73 N Fatho (GB), 76 C Roces (M

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